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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET IN TUNIS 26 FEB

LD252338 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Arab League Council will hold a meeting tomorrow afternoon in Tunis in an extraordinary session following the agreement by most member countries to hold the meeting on that date and not to postpone it.

Morocco's Boucetta's Arrival Statement

LD252344 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation arrived in Tunis this afternoon to take part in an emergency session Arab League Council due to begin in Tunis tomorrow.

On arrival, Mr Boucetta stressed that Morocco's participation in the emergency session of the Arab League Council is dictated by Morocco's desire to explain its attitude concerning the painful events experienced in Qafsah, an attitude clearly outlined by His Majesty King Hassan II. Boucetta added that by adopting this attitude, Morocco is eager to express its tangible solidarity with sister Tunisia. Circumstances require us to make the voice of the truth heard in order to end activities aimed at harming the sovereignty and independence of states and at hindering progress of these states by unacceptable methods. The principles declared in the Arab League Charter are clear, and not just ink on paper. We say at the top of our voice that we stand by Tunisia which has been exposed to aggression.

Regarding the assistance which Morocco gave Tunisia, the minister pointed out it was within the framework of the fraternal relations existing between Tunisia and Morocco at both the leadership and basic levels.

Mr Boucetta was welcomed at Carthage airport in Tunis by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, and Moroccan Ambassador to Tunis Mohamed Tazi.

'ARAFAT: ISRAEL PREPARING OPERATION AGAINST PLO, SYRIA

NC251945 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Speech by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at opening session of the third conference of the General Federation of Palestinian Women, held at UNESCO hall in Beirut on 25 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] I address heartfelt greetings to the two brother strugglers and my beloved sons Abu 'Ali Mahdi Busaysu and William Nassar [applause], who were in enemy prisons and who proved that they were greater than their jailers and greater than Zionism, imperialism and colonialism. [applause]

The Zionist enemy has distributed pictures of tanks and armored vehicles in the possession of the Palestinian national movement. I tell them: Remember that some of these armored vehicles were captured by us during our long and many battles with you. [applause] I say this at a time when the Zionist enemy, in the form of 'Ezer Weizman, declares that it has completed its military preparations to confront the PLO and Syria. The radio of the Zionist enemy's army has also said that the Zionist armed forces have completed military exercises against civilian targets. We also remember that 10 or 15 days ago Begin said that he would help the isolationists in the south and north. This means that there is a plan for a military operation against civilian targets.

They are preparing for an operation against the PLO and Syria. However, we are not alone; the entire Iranian Revolution is with us, as are all free and honorable men throughout the world.

Last night, I read in an Egyptian newspaper how As-Sadat is grieving over Islam in Afghanistan. I want to remind him of Jerusalem, which he sold in exchange for a handful of Sinai sand with truncated sovereignty. The Egyptian people, the people of 'Abd an-Nasir, will give an answer and will deal two blows for every one blow. The other day As-Sadat insolently said: I find it strange that up to now the Egyptian people have not accepted normalization and have not understood it. Normalization; what normalization? Normalization of slavery, of treason? I say that just as a giant named 'Abd an-Nasir acted in 1952, so will new giants in Egypt act to remove this hateful and ugly face. It is not coincidental that these Israeli threats have come prior to 28 May, which is the date for concluding the so-called self-rule talks, the so-called Camp David conspiracy. Hence, they are thinking of dealing a blow to the Palestinian revolution before 28 May. However, I want to tell them one thing: The Lebanese fighter and his brotner, the Palestinian fighter, are waiting for you. I want to tell Begin, Carter and their agent As-Sadat that there are heroes in southern Lebanon who have decided to die as martyrs so that their nation may live. [applause]

Our revolution threatens but cannot be threatened; let everyone know this. Let Carter know that his dispatch of three fleets--the Fifth [as heard], the 6th and 7th fleets--to the area where he is trying to behave like a cowboy, as if the oil and land are his--I want to tell him in the name of the freemen of our Arab nation that if he believes he can occupy the oilfields, we will burn them before he occupies them. [applause]

I appeal to the Lebanese authorities to seriously consider the plan for national unity and reconciliation submitted by the Lebanese National Movement and the National Front. I appeal to everyone to heed the voice of justice and accept this reconciliation. We in the Palestinian revolution will adhere to all commitments tnat will be imposed on us by such a reconciliation I appeal to everyone, above all President Sarkis, to proleed with national reconciliation because the conspiracy--the aim of which is to go back to Kissinger's conspiracy, which is now represented by Philip Habib's proposals--is great. You all know about this conspiracy. Philip Habib's proposals are an extension of Carter's plan and an extention of Kissinger's conspiracy, which set off the ugly war in Lebanon.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR GENERAL STRIKE 26 FEB

NC251710 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee calls on the masses throughout the Arab countries to stage a general strike tomorrow as a pan-Arab protest against the final fall of tne Egyptian regime in the swamp of agentry and treason and against its submission to the lowest degree of humiliation and capitulation at the feet of the enemy of our Arab nation. On this occasion, the PLO Executive Committee calls on all educational establishments throughout our Arab homeland to devote tomorrow's classes to outlining the Palestine question and the dangers of As-Sadat regime's action in betraying the main cause of our Arab nation in Palestine and its liberation struggle. The PLO Executive Committee also calls on the Arab masses to adopt a firm and revolutionary stand resisting this step, which harms the dearest aspirations of our Arab nation for freedom, unity and dignity.

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY AL-MUSTAQBAL

JN221913 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Paris, 22 February--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak has stated that the pan-Arab declaration proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 8 February includes good and positive points that serve Arab solidarity and aid the efforts to keep the Arab homeland far from spheres of foreign influence.

In a statement that will be published by the Paris-based magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL tomorrow, the Bahraini minister added that the declaration includes constructive proposals for organizing Arab relations far from all forms of influence.

The Bahraini minister asserted that any step to grant facilities or military bases to the super powers in the Gulf area cannot be accepted. He expressed his conviction that there is no organization in the Gulf areas that supports Oman's steps to grant facilities or military bases in the area. He added that the act of bringing U.S. forces into the area would complicate matters and would render the dangers of conflict and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in the area more possible and serious.

He explained that the pan-Arab declaration proposed by the Iraqi presidents a positive and practical proposal for Arab action in confronting events and disputes. The declaration reiterated the impartial and responsible Iraqi stand, he added.

FOREIGN MINISTER CLARIFIES STATEMENT ON OMAN

GF251351 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 25 Feb 80 p 1 GF

[Text] Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah has replied to an article in the Paris-based magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL quoting him as saying his country differed with Oman over military facilities for the United States.

He said: "Bahrain's attitude towards the superpowers is well known and Bahrain has disclosed it several times before and will stick to it.

"What has been mentioned about our sister country Oman was untrue and our policy is not to take decisions or to interfere in the sovereignty of our sister countries' affairs."

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES MANAMA FOR TUNIS

NC260630 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 26 February--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah left Manama for Tunis this morning. He is heading his country's delegation to the Arab League Council meeting to be held at the level of foreign ministers at the invitation of Tunisia and Libya to discuss the attack to which a Tunisian border city was subjected last month.

The delegation accompanying the Bahraini foreign minister includes the Bahraini ambassador to Tunisia, 'Abd al-'Aziz ash-Shamlan.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD, TUNIS

LD251220 Kuwait KUNA in English 1022 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 25, (KUNA)--Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left Monday for Baghdad with a message from his highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabab, to President Saddam Husayn.

Shaykh Sabah will proceed Tuesday to Tunis to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers.

INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL VISITS KUWAIT

LD242224 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1234 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 24 February--Indian Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Romesh Bandari today resumed his talks with Kuwaiti officials on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and bilateral relations between India and Kuwait.

Bandari met with Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid. Earlier he had a meeting with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn. Bandari arrived in Kuwait yesterday.

Husayn said that Bandari informed him of the results of talks which Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has had with world leaders, including Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. Gromyko was the first Soviet official to visit India following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Husayn told members of the press today that the Indian official's visit to Kuwait falls within the framework of a Gulf tour to discuss cooperation among the area member-countries to bring an end to the current situation in Afghanistan.

He added that Kuwait expressed its readiness to cooperate in finding a way out of the present impasse and thereby prevent a collision between the superpowers in the region "and to keep any danger or harm coming to the area or the world."

Bandara has already visited Saudi Arabia and the UAE and will visit Iran before returning home.

Summarizes Talks

LD261024 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper today attributes to an Indian envoy who paid a visit to Kuwait the statement that the two countries are "totally" in agreement on the necessity "to reduce tension" in the Indian subcontinent as a result of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The Indian envoy, Romesh Bandari, who concluded his 2-day visit to Kuwait yesterday, told the KUWAITI TIMES that his talks with Kuwaiti officials about the latest developments in the Indian Ocean region showed agreement in the viewpoints of both sides regarding the effects that would ensue as a result of the presence of a foreign power in the region.

He added that such a presence "will lead to a state of instability and insecurity, as we also consider that the cold war coming to our region will hinder the development efforts in our two countries." He said that he agreed with Kuwaiti officials on the need for finding a "suitable" solution through the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Their intervention in the Asian country resulted in the installation of a new pro-Moscow government at the end of last year.

Bandari said that his country is currently in contact with Pakistan with regard to containing the Afghan crisis, and that it is also in contact with the Soviet Union on this matter. He added that India is not only in contact with Moscow, but it has also dispatched an envoy to the United States and Canada as part of its consultations with those countries. He said that his country assured Pakistan that it should not fear India. He added that India wishes to see Pakistan united, stable and economically strong.

SAUDI ARABIA

IRAQI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN JIDDAH FOR VISIT

LD242102 Riyadh Saudi Press Agency (SPA) in Arabic 1840 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Source formerly identified as "SNA"]

[Excerpts] Jiddah--Iraqi Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister [title as received] 'Izzat Ibrahim arrived here this evening leading a delegation on visit to the kingdom which will last for several days. The delegation includes member of the Revolution Council and Deputy Prime Minister Na'im Haddad; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid Alwan; Foreign Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali; and a number of officials. 'Izzat Ibrahim and delegation will leave Jiddah for Riyadh tomorrow.

IRAQ'S 'IZZAT IBRAHIM ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

LD251239 Riyadh Saudi Press Agency (SPA) in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 25 F ebruary--Iraqi Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim left Riyadh this afternoon after a brief visit to the kingdom.

He was seen off at the airport by Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Minister of Education 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytit and a number of senior officials.

'Izzat Ibrahim arrived in the kingdom last night.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MEETS AS-SADAT, MAKES STATEMENT

NC251650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 February--U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton said after his 1-hour meeting with President as-Sadat this afternoon that he conveyed to President as-Sadat some information from Ambassador Sol Linowitz, President Carter's Middle East envoy, connected with his current conception of the situation in the area and also the autonomy negotiations. Alfred Atherton added: I have also exchanged views with President as-Sadat and conveyed to him the U.S. view on the situation in general and the negotiations in particular. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil attended part of the meeting.

KHALIL COMMENTS ON INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTONOMY CONFERENCE

NC251653 Cairo MENA in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25. (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat instructed Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil to work for achieving progress in the self-rule negotiations in order to reach a fruitful outcome at the fixed timing. Dr. Khalil, who leaves tomorrow for The Hague to attend the meetings of the plenary committee on Palestinian autonomy negotiations, said [this].

The president also urged Dr. Khalil not to let the negotiations take a longer time than the prefixed one, Dr. Khalil said following a meeting this afternoon with President as-Sadat, with Vice President Husni Mubarak attending.

The prime minister went on to say that President as-Sadat stressed during the 90-minute meeting the necessity of keeping up negotiations until an accord is reached by the parties on the basis of the Camp David accord.

In reply to a query on whether there are new Egyptian proposals to be submitted during The Hague meeting, Khalil said: We will get acquainted with their proposals, but as regards our stances vis-a-vis the competence of self-rule, they are very clear.

Asked if there will be new Israeli proposals during The Hague meeting the premier said Israel has in fact submitted new proposals, but they are not to the core of the issue, and they are only proposals for the formation of committees.

Asked if the American Ambassador Alfred Atherton had conveyed to President as-Sadat during a meeting today a message from President Carter's Envoy in the Mideast Sol Linowitz, Dr. Khalil said he knew nothing about this matter for he attended only part of the meeting and not all of it.

Asked about the date of his departure for The Hague, Dr. Khalil asserted that he will be leaving tomorrow.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF STATE GHALI INTERVIEWED

NC261040 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Paris, Feb. 26 (AFP)--Egyptian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said here today he hoped elections on Palestinian autonomy would be held on schedule next May 26.

Mr. Ghali, here for talks today with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, told AFP: "Since we respected the February 26 deadline for the presentation of diplomatic credentials by the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, we trust that May 26--another important step in the peace process--will see the holding of the elections that are to bring into existence the Palestinian entity in the Jordan West Bank and Gaza territories."

Alluding to the resumption at The Hague tomorrow of autonomy talks between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and a U.S. official, Mr. Ghali said: "If in the three months still remaining we obtain initial results permitting the Palestinians to take part directly or indirectly in the negotiations, we could envisage prolonging them beyond May 26. "However, if the negotiations do not progress, they will lose all credibility and their continuation would do more harm than good to the peace process," he said. Mr. Ghali added that he would be informing Mr. Francois-Poncet about latest developments "in the efforts being made in favour of the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination, as is normal in the case of a friendly country." "We would appreciate any suggestions that might be made to us," Mr. Ghali said.

MENA: U.S. ARMS DEAL WITH EGYPT WORTH '$4 BILLION'

NC252305 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Washington, 25 February--The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the U.S. arms deal with Egypt is estimated at $4 billion over 5 years. The correspondent has learned that the deal includes, in addition to F-16 aircraft and M-60 tanks, modern antiaircraft missiles, M-13 armored troop carriers and F-4 Phantoms. The correspondent also has learned that preliminary talks are currently taking place to allow Egyptian plants to assemble Bell-214 ST helicopters and F-5's.

Meanwhile, informed sources have disclosed that the delay in delivering F-15's to Egypt is due to the heavy orders for this aircraft from the U.S., Israeli, Saudi Arabian and Japanese air forces. These sources said that F-16's were expected to be delivered to Egypt before the end of 1980.

MILITARY TALKS CONDUCTED WITH UK

NC251453 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25 (MENA)--Chief of Staff of the armed forces Lt. General Ahmad Badawi conferred here today with General Sir Edwin Bramall, chief of staff of the British Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him.

The one-hour meeting took place within the context of fostering joint cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries in the fields of armament, military training missions and the boosting of Egypt's military industries.

Later General Bramall listened to a lecture on the October War and the impact of peace moves pursued by Egypt on the world in general and the Middle East in particular.

'IZZAT IBRAHIM RETURNS HOME, MAKES STATEMENT

JN251610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the accompanying delegation returned home this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement upon his return, 'Izzat Ibrahim described his visit to Jordan and Saudi Arabia as positive and constructive. He said that he delivered letters from President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan and King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

Ibrahim said that his discussions with Jordanian and Saudi officials dealt with current Arab and world affairs and the pan-Arab declaration announced by President Saddam Husayn in his historic speech on the anniversary of the 8 February revolution.

Ibrahim said that His Majesty King Husayn and Saudi officials reaffirmed their support for the historic declaration, which they consider a principled line that will give the Arab nation the strength to face serious challenges, enable the Arab countries to organize their political and economic relations and keep the Arab region away from international conflict and rivalry among foreign powers.

Ibrahim said that the Iraqi delegation studied with Jordanian and Saudi officials the adequate means to make this pan-Arab declaration a policy line for the entire Arab nation.

The delegation accompanying the RCC deputy chairman included Na'im Haddad, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KUWAITI AMIR

JN251801 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--President Saddam Husayn has received a message from amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah on the current Arab situation. The exchange of viewpoints on the situation and the fraternal relations between both countries.

It has been learned here that the message included Kuwait's absolute support for the pan-Arab declaration, which is exemplary for the unity of Arab struggle.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered the message this evening when received by President Saddam Husayn.

IRAQI, KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTERS LEAVE FOR TUNIS

JN261046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left Baghdad for Tunis today to attend the Arab League Council's emergency meeting to be held there this evening.

In a press statement prior to departure, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said he is carrying a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the pan-Arab charter declared on 8 February concerning the regulation of Arab relations.

In a statement before his departure, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that he had conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah on Kuwait's support for the pan-Arab charter.

UAE OIL MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN251623 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

Dr al-'Utaybah told INA that he will convey a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan dealing with the strengthening of relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Arab and international situation.

Dr al-'Utaybah added that he will hold talks with Taiyh 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, on coordinating oil policies between the two fraternal countries and within OPEC.

Dr al-'Utaybah said that he will participate in the Arab symposium on economic and social development in the Gulf region, which began its work in Baghdad today, and that he will deliver a lecture on the role of oil in the economic development of the Arab Gulf countries.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BANGLADESH PRESIDENT

JN251947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman dealing with the scope of bilateral cooperation and the means to strengthen this cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the two friendly countries.

The message was conveyed by Bangladesh Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar when received by the president tonight.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed current international developments and discussed the means to strengthen the nonalined movement so that it can defend its independence and assert its principles in international developments.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad.

LABOR FEDERATION SENDS MEMO TO GOVERNMENT

JN232127 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Feb 80 p 4 JN

[AD-DUSTUR correspondent's interview with Shahir al-Majali, secretary general of the Jordanian Federation of Labor Unions--date not given]

[Excerpts] The General Federation of Labor Unions in Jordan has submitted an important memorandum to the government. The memorandum includes a number of suggestions, proposal and views on strengthening the labor movement in Jordan and reinforcing its role in implementing production and development plans as well as reinforcing the concepts of participation, cooperation and work within a framework of freedom and stability.

In an interview with this newspaper, Secretary General of the Federation of Labor Unions Shahir al-Majali said: The memorandum, which covers 13 points, stresses the role of workers, considering them as the backbone of the process of construction. New responsibilities will be given to the workers. These responsibilities will make new incentives, making workers exert more efforts to increase production and tempting them to stay in their homeland by the existence of psychological and financial stability. This is how new Jordan will be built. Through the daily work of its sons, Jordan's development, hopes and achievements will increase year after year.

Al-Majali said that the memorandum includes the following points:

1. Social laws: The most important phenomenon that distinguishes every country and reflects its progress is the revision and modernization of its laws and systems. These laws determine the relationship between citizens and people and the society in which they live on the bases of justice and equality to provide the people with the means of tranquillity, stability and security, especially social and economic security. Undoubtedly, the labor law and the social security law play a very important role not only in organizing relations between the two sides of production, but also in protecting the society and national economy from instability and chaos.

The current labor law can no longer cope with the rapid cultural, economic and social progress achieved by Jordan. All parties concerned agree on the need to modernize the Labor Law. We also hope that the government will expand the "umbrella" of the Social Security Law as soon as possible to cover all the citizens in our great country so that every worker and every citizen will feel that he is an independent and active entity in a society in which no social differences exist, a society characterized by stability, tranquillity and the achievement of social justice.

2. Participation: human resources are the creator and objective of development. Through the guidance of His Majesty King Husayn, the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the participation of all classes of our society, Jordan has achieved and implemented several development plans. However, as workers we have participated only in the implementation, not planning. Thus, we have been viewed merely as figures. Labor has been defined as a productive force only.

The development concept should lay emphasis on the worker himself, not just his production. Today, while we are entering a new phase of building new Jordan and while strongly confronting international conspiracies behind the leadership of King Husayn--thus forming a unified strong front--we should truly participate on a large scale, on all levels and in all fields of development the labor movement should positively and actively participate in the political and economic fields.

3. Emigration and immigration: we should change the policy of employment. The worker should be viewed as a human being and a citizen, not a means of production. We should study the needs of the labor market in accordance with development plans. We should also stress the importance of vocational training and expand it to where it meets our local needs, since we lack technical and skilled laborers as a result of the continued emigration of laborers to foreign countries. We should also overcome the problems faced by the agriculture workers and try to provide them with adequate protection under the law to put an end to the migration of farmers to the cities which harms our agriculture and compounds the cities' problems.

Furthermore, we should control the influx of foreign workers, who compete with our workers for their livelihood, by restricting their employment in accordance with the labor law and practical measures which take into consideration social and psychological effects and security matters. We should not view the employment of foreign workers as a financial and economic advantage. Great dangers might result from the continued influx of foreign workers and from our dependence on them as substitutes for our Jordanian workers, who are compelled to emigrate, leaving the labor market empty.

4. High prices and wages: recent years have witnessed an incredible increase in prices, especially the prices of commodities, thus creating problems for the laborers and low-income citizens. Prices have increased but wages have remained almost the same.

The issue of price increases has become critical and has added to the problems of low-income citizens. This problem requires a quick and firm solution from the government. We hope that the government will pay adequate attention to this issue. The government should keep close watch on prices through an effective control system which will work out a balanced pricing policy that establishes a balance between price increases and wages, making foreign trade serve our national and pan-Arab interests.

5. The revision of the taxation policy: in order to achieve more justice in taxation, we should revise the taxation policy and its bases in light of current needs and the levels of prices and wages. We have seen that indirect tax (customs) increases while incomes decrease. This is particularly true in the case of basic commodities. Those who suffer most from the increases in taxation are the laborers and the low-income citizens. The poor people suffer more than the rich people.

The government has adopted an unfair policy with regard to exempting some workers in the public and private sectors from paying taxes. There is no balance between the increases in taxation and wages. In order to achieve a fair taxation policy, we suggest the following:

A. Reducing indirect taxation, especially on basic commodities since the workers and the low-income citizens suffer most from this kind of tax.

B. Increasing taxation on luxuries to reduce their importation to make up for the loss resulting from the reduction on basic commodities.

C. Revising tax exemptions for laborers and low-income citizens in view of the present high cost of living.

D. Implementing a progressive income tax policy on the incomes of laborers, inherited money, unearned capital and lottery money.

6. Fair distribution of public services: in order to achieve comprehensive and complete development, we should provide all kinds of public service to cover all cities and villages in Jordan. Every citizen must benefit from these services so our development and progress will be complete and cover the countryside in Jordan.

We hope that these demands will be met. They will contribute towards creating a new Jordan, strengthening the concept of participation and true citizenship and motivating our workers to exert more efforts to increase the level of production.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE

JN251831 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf received at his office today the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting, serious and effective ways of supporting our people in the occupied territories were discussed.

The committee ended its meetings today after having studied a working plan for bolstering steadfastness and formulating a comprehensive development plan for the occupied territories for the present year in order to achieve the aims of the fund for bolstering steadfastness in confrontation of the settlement schemes and projects.

The committee began its meetings in Amman last Saturday.

ROYAL HASHEMITE COURT SOURCE CITED ON HASAN'S TOUR

JN251834 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] A responsible source in the Royal Hashemite Court has stated that on Wednesday, 27 February, Crown Prince Hasan will begin an official visit to Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq. The purpose of the visit is to bolster fraternal relations between Jordan and the fraternal states.

AL-KASM DELIVERS GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT 18 FEB

JN201730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Feb 80 JN

[Text of Syrian Government policy statement read by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf Al-Kasm at the People's Assembly session held on 18 February 1980--recorded]

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, members of the assembly. The government has assumed its tasks and responsibilities in a very critical phase, calling now, more than at any time before, for a courageous and firm handling of the vital issues affecting the lives of the masses of our people and a readiness both to face the increasing dangers surrounding the region and to face our national struggle with its most complicated and difficult tasks. In the face of these mounting tasks, we have no choice but to follow the revolutionary path of work and production, of tackling domestic issues and of facing outside dangers by pooling the Syrian Arab people's effective energy and resources and asserting their firm and noble willpower, in order to carry out radical changes and to wage the struggle under the guidance of their farsighted political leadership.

Thus, the resolutions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Seventh Regional Congress have ushered in a new phase in the life of the revolution, a phase that will continue the principles and slogans proven right by experience, and change methods of work so that the implementation steps will be more rapid, more precise and more expressive of the principles embodied in the corrective movement. This phase will be characterized by meeting the essential needs of the people. The party leadership and the National Progressive Front Central Command have examined these needs and have made certain recommendations. Therefore, our government's responsibility is to interpret these recommendations into work programs and lists of priorities aimed at maintaining the security of the society and the state, guaranteeing the freedom of the citizen and safeguarding his dignity, establishing the principle of equal opportunities and entrenching the unity of our people's struggling masses.

With such an approach, we will be introducing a new and distinctive phase, marked by confidence in assuming tasks and responsibilities, achieving objectives on the domestic and pan-Arab levels and proceeding determinedly both to build a stronger human being and a mightier homeland and to wage a struggle that cannot be encumbered by any obstacle or enemy.

Thus, every future plan or program we submit to your esteemed council will be precise and comprehensive, in order to serve as the proper framework for government efforts and for the assembly's discussion and appraisal. Our government and your assembly will share the responsibility of appraising the achievements, development and progress made by this struggler country, so as to reach a well-examined and enlightened study of the requirements needed for the next great leap, a leap that will surmount all difficulties, obstacles and negative aspects, a constructive revolutionary leap that will mean the rejuvenation of all the principles of the corrective movement, as well as being a direct expression of the people's aspirations in the battle for development and defense and of the national and pan-Arab values entrenched by the regional command, under struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic.

First: General policy.

A. Arab Policy. Proceeding from our pan-Arab view, we believe that political action in the Arab arena cannot be subject to conventional political concepts. We believe that the current division of the Arab homeland into small scattered states does not express the historical reality of the Arab nation. As a matter of fact, we, as a people and a party, believe that the natural thing for the Arab nation is to be united politically, economically and socially. Such unity should express the pan-Arab will and desire for a unified Arab state and a unified socialist democratic Arab society.

The policy of this country is planned and based on the struggle for unity. All issues deriving from the current struggle in the Arab arena are subjected to a national appraisal, on the basis of which this country chooses its methods for political action to push the Arab cause and the Arab stand to a level that truly expresses solidarity, unity and joint action in all fields.

Therefore, this country's Arab policy is based on the political program of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the resolutions of the Seventh Regional Congress. These resolutions have established a clear framework that will help the government define its stands and objectives in the arena. This framework is represented in the following principles:

1. To continue the pan-Arab struggle to entrench the unity trend in the Arab homeland and to take any unity step with any Arab country that is seeking such a step and is ready for it.

2. To continue to exert every effort to back Arab solidarity and bolster joint Arab action in all fields, in order to strengthen our struggle against Zionism and imperialism, to devote Arab capabilities to the cause of liberation, to avoid side issues and to direct all efforts against the main enemy of the Arab nation.

3. To continue to assume the pan-Arab responsibility of confronting the plot to partition Lebanon, backing Lebanon's national unity and continuing the efforts to restore security and stability to Lebanon.

4. To resist all attempts to liquidate the Palestine question, the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, to project the Palestinian identity before the world public as an indivisible part of the Arab national identity, to contribute effectively toward achieving Palestinian unity and to continue to back the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

5. To back the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front as the major Arab base for resisting all capitulatory plots and facing all challenges, as well as for foiling the treaty of treason between the ruling Egyptian regime and Israel and nullifying all of its effects.

6. To continue to adhere to the basic aim, which is the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories, the nonrelinquishment of any part thereof and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

B. International Policy. International relations in the current phase have become more complicated and susceptible to sharp confrontation between the main world powers, which influence and are influenced by events everywhere in the world. This calls for a continuous and speedy appraisal of the changes in world developments, which seem to quickly develop into crises, especially since the aggressive policies of imperialism and Zionism are exploiting every opportunity to achieve their hostile designs. The gravity of international developments demands that we show continuous awareness of the details of these developments and refine our methods in planning our relations with the outside world. Our international policy should be governed by the following principles:

1. To continue to support and strengthen the nonalined movement, to develop its resistance to Zionism and imperialism and to help it become politically and economically independent.

2. To continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with the socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR, in the various fields.

3. To continue efforts so that the Islamic Conference Organization will back the Arab stand internationally, especially with regard to the central Arab issue--the Palestine question.

4. To develop relations with the African and Latin American countries, in order to strengthen the international front against Zionism, U.S. imperialism, colonialism and racial discrimination.

5. To maintain contacts with the Western states and peoples and to turn these contacts into a potent instrument for explaining our pan-Arab issues, stressing the link between European and Mediterranean security and highlighting the dangers of Israel's expansionist policy.

6. To back liberation movements everywhere in the world.

C. Domestic Policy. If our Arab and international policy places doubled burdens on this country, domestic action in the next phase calls for a policy marked by both firmness and progressiveness, in order to tackle matters radically and to deal with the primary issues. Through such a direct approach, plans and programs will turn into an internal movement for profound and comprehensive change, affecting all systems and responsibilities, objectively rectifying all faults, strengthening the society's means of production and eliminating any conditions of aimlessness, excessiveness and negligence in the relationship between the government and the people. Thus, domestic action will be primarily based on a precise balance between production and consumption, wages and prices, the aims of development and the planning of skilled and specialized manpower. Domestic action will also be based on protecting the country's strategic manpower, consisting of brains and financiers, and establishing a state that is modern in its methods, systems, functions and relationships with the citizens.

Therefore, the main objective of our domestic policy is to build a society that meets the needs of the Syrian citizen and insures his freedom to safeguard his dignity under the real supremacy of the law. We will continue to be guided by the words of President Hafiz al-Asad, when he said: We will continue to cooperate with and depend on our masses, which fought the October War and supported the corrective movement, development and popular democratic guidance. These masses are the source of our strength and victory.

Therefore, the general aims of the government program are defined in the following principles:

1. To continue to entrench domestic unity and to utilize all political, national and spiritual values in enhancing the people's political and social maturity and sense of real collective responsibility, in an atmosphere of love, confidence and abundance, to devote efforts toward creating an Arab human being who believes in his nation and its objectives of unity, freedom and socialism.

2. To stress the applicability of the absolute supremacy of law over all citizens in this country; to eliminate all negative aspects, such as individual excesses, by applying the rules and regulations; to eradicate malpractices and all attempts at gaining personal privileges, whether material or moral; to reorganize and develop the judiciary, streamline its procedures and improve the conditions of its members.

3. To give the army and armed forces continuous special attention; to provide it with all means of armed struggle; to strengthen its fighting capability and to improve the educational, cultural and military standards of its men so that they can perform their defense duties and face all possibilities in the circumstances currently facing the Arab nation, as well as face the continuous threats of the Zionist enemy, who is backed by world imperialism.

4. To continue to develop local administrative systems by upholding the principles of popular supervision and decentralization in all the provinces by taking an advanced step in this field.

5. To seriously proceed toward modernizing the work of the state apparatus, developing administrative and legal relations within it and adopting measures to streamline procedures in government departments.

6. To introduce quick and comprehensive radical changes in the services sector, especially in the work of and coordination among the various ministries and agencies involved in such services as transport, communications, medical care, utilities, electricity, electrification of the countryside and water supply to all parts of the country; to stress the need to provide the highest standard of service and to insure all necessary means for such service.

7. To continue to involve women in national development and to increase the means of training and rehabilitation of women, to expedite plans to involve women in productive, administrative and planning operations.

8. To take steps to implement the remaining projects in the fourth 5-year plan and to insure maximum operation of existing plants and of those that are being implemented, to prepare and submit the fifth 5-year plan for 1981-1985 on foundations reflecting the ideas contained in the speech of the president of the republic and the resolutions of the party's Seventh Regional Congress.

9. To give top priority to agriculture, to tackle the current situation in the agricultural sector and to draw up an integral plan for agricultural development, taking into consideration present obstacles and the demands of the next phase, and to achieve quick development in the agricultural field.

10. To revise the rules and regulations of the public sector firms, companies and establishments, especially in the industrial field, so as to standardize them on such points as the powers of key posts, optimal utilization of manpower, equipment and machinery and increase in production. This is for the purpose of firmly entrenching the role of the public sector as the leader of the national economy.

11. To exploit our natural resources as much as possible, especially in prospecting for, transporting and marketing oil, including natural gas, as well as prospecting for and exploiting other mineral resources, on the basis of economic feasibility studies.

12. To expand the scope of positive government intervention in internal trade; to insure the supply of essential foodstuffs in the right quantities and prices; to establish a comprehensive distribution system covering all provinces in order to insure supply to all cooperative stores; to stress the need to market local products and the need for the government to continue to subsidize essential foodstuffs, in the interest of low income citizens.

13. To develop the state policy on foreign trade balance, in order to improve the balance of payments; to draft a precise plan for activating the process of exporting national products in coordination with the economic establishments; to open foreign markets for these products; to confine imports to materials required for production and to foodstuffs and to develop foreign trade departments in a manner that is compatible with these aims.

14. To carry out a radical reform of the financial and tax system and to enhance the effective role of the banking departments, in order to develop their regulations, tasks and methods and their contribution to general economic activity.

Second: Steps in Internal Organization.

The internal organization of establishments that have direct relations with the citizens' interests and affairs is considered the natural path to stability in public life and the safety of its course. This is because the accurate organization of the various relationships leads to a sound atmosphere for confidence, reassurance and stability, as well as to the exercise of freedom in all of its forms, the increase of human activities in all fields, the emergence of the people's living and creative forces and the enhancement of all of the citizens' social feeling of responsibility. In order to achieve this objective, the local administration system will be developed in order to achieve a more efficient distribution of public jurisdictions and to transfer most of them to the governorates, thus preventing their concentration, as well as that of a large number of relations and interests, in one city rather than another or in the cities rather than the rural areas.

This development of the local administration system will also promote the level of the local popular authorities' conduct of their tasks and duties. This effort should be accompanied by a legislative reform of the laws by which the citizens are judged and of the judiciary measures and organs, as this will [word indistinct] a host of negative aspects to which the citizens are exposed in this regard.

It seems obvious that developing the security organs, supporting them with capabilities and raising the standard of those working in them will make strides, linked with work to tackle all fields of internal organization, toward a constant rise in the level of social services to which we have made reference and which were given prominent attention by the party's Seventh Regional Congress resolutions as principal trends in these fields. We feel it our duty to materialize these trends in a working program as follows:

A. The Judiciary.

In this respect the government's policy derives from respect for the citizen's freedom, the provision of his security, the safeguarding of his dignity and respect for the constitutional principles that consecrate this freedom. Proceeding from this starting point, the government's aim will be:

1. To firmly and comprehensively apply the principle of the supremacy of law and the consolidation of the judiciary's powers and to strive for the independence of the judiciary, as well as to respect judicial verdicts and to implement and expand the ordinary judiciary's jurisdiction at the expense of the extraordinary judiciary in all matters that do not concern state security.

2. To support the judicial apparatus and to appoint people of experience, qualifications and good conduct to it; to raise the judges' scientific and educational standard; to establish a judicial institute in accordance with modern scientific methods and to curtail judicial procedures, in order to expedite the realization of justice.

3. To reconsider all legislation that has been found, through experience and application, to have defects.

4. To improve the judges' financial and moral status. On this occasion I would like to say that yesterday the president--prior to this statement--granted the judges a pay increase amounting to 75 percent of their salaries.

B. Internal Security.

The government stresses the following matters in this regard:

1. To firmly continue to consolidate the security of the state and society, to provide all capabilities to protect the society from crime and to defend its values and traditions of struggle.

2. To supply the working departments with their needs in officers, NCO's, soldiers, equipment, vehicles and electronic equipment.

3. To facilitate the procedures to be followed in accomplishing the citizens' work; to raise the standard of people working in security departments and to guarantee social cooperation between the citizens and security men.

C. Local Administration.

Due to our concern to move ahead to a new stage in applying local administration law, to include cities and towns, to entrench the principle of decentralized administration and to contribute to the implementation of the various projects and the performance of rural services, we will work for the achievements of an advanced and essential step in the following spheres:

1. To apply the second stage of the local administration law on cities and towns.

2. To work for the issuance of the implementing bill of the local administration law in a manner that reflects this concept, in light of practical application needs during the current stage.

3. To develop local resources by issuing the financial law on the administrative units and the budget law on local projects, in addition to increasing the financial aid granted annually to the municipalities, particularly the small ones.

4. To develop means of cooperation between local administrative bodies and the ministries and other public quarters; to consolidate local apparatuses quantitatively and qualitatively and to adopt measures that will enable the local councils and their executive bureaus to exercise their role in bolstering popular supervision of the state departments and leaderships and in implementing the set plans.

D. Social Affairs and Labor.

The basic pillars of our working plan to offer services on the social affairs level are as follows:

1. To draft a new labor law that suits the nature of the stage and the economic and social development that has taken place in Syria over the last 20 years. The law must also be in harmony with international and Arab labor agreements.

2. To draw up a new wages policy on the basis of one wage for one kind of work; to draw up a professional classification of the various professions, activities and industries; to form a central committee to be in charge of studying wages for the labor forces and to pay attention to vocational training and orientation.

3. To develop the law on agricultural relations by creating a parallel relationship between the parties in agricultural work, providing protection to agricultural laborers and boosting the agricultural judiciary in a manner that will guarantee harmony between its provisions and those of the endorsed Arab and international agreements.

4. Look after the rural areas and to improve them; to extend the centers for reviving the rural areas, and to develop the guidance units of the carpet industry and of new rural industries that depend on agricultural products in these areas.

5. To increase and develop social services, to give attention to the family and to found a higher council for social development; special attention will be given to rehabilitating and training retarded people in traditional industries.

6. To amend the social insurance law in order to achieve its unity and its coverage of all the country's workers and to continue work to issue the unified law of workers.

7. To work for the implementation of plans on establishing (?dispensaries) in Damascus, Aleppo and [name indistinct], the construction of a workers' city in Balmah and housing units for workers in the governorates.

E. Women and Development.

The Syrian Arab woman has set out to work and produce, and her role is escalating in all the political, administrative and productive fields. The party as well as the state attach special importance to their continued support for the woman's march and her participation in the various fields. The government considers as its program that which has been stressed by the party's Seventh Regional Congress regarding women. The government will continue to employ women's potentials in the development activities and to increase the chances of qualification, training and education for her in accordance with the country's needs and in a manner that will give her an active part in the processes of production, administration and planning.

Third: The Economic Policy.

Syria's economic policy derives its principles from the main points defined by the party. In light of these points, the government draws up the necessary programs for implementation. This policy aims at listing and exploiting all available resources and at making thorough studies of the economic feasibility of projects in order to aid both external and internal trade and to link them to the productive trends. A precise policy concerning investment and financial expenditure will be adopted. The government will always depend on economic analysis and will always draw a balance between planning and programming throughout the implementation period of the plan. Proceeding from these outlooks, Syria's economic policy works according to the following:

A. Planning for Economic and Social Development.

1. The government will submit the fifth 5-year plan for economic and social development for the years 1981-1985 at the end of 1980. This plan will take into account the facts mentioned in the president's speech and the party's Seventh Regional Congress. This plan will be part of long-range and comprehensive planning which will take the future, up to the year 2000, into account so that the successive 5-year plans will serve as time frames within the framework of this economic development.

2. The ideal options for implementing this plan will be defined and completed with a 10-year development framework, 1981-1990. This framework will specify changes and indicators in a more balanced manner.

3. In its initial phase, the fifth 5-year plan will focus on the productive economic sector. It will make maximum use of available potentials, eradicate congestion and impediments, raise productivity and create new capabilities in light of the elements of demand and in light of the plan's continuous economic policy.

4. Within this context and during its two phases, the plan will concentrate on the vegetable and zoological agricultural field so as to provide an integrated food system. It will also concentrate on many of the needs of production, developing the countryside and amending the economic structure in the various sectors in light of the implemented development stages and the established policy to crystallize the national economy.

5. The fifth 5-year plan includes partial plans for training and qualifying manpower in domestic and foreign trade and in building and construction. It also includes a financial plan as well as other major indicators to define the landmarks of development in all the productive and services fields.

6. Work to provide means for implementation will continue. This will be done by formulating time schedules that specify the framework of the period of implementation and its financial requisites. Stress will be laid on commitment to new projects within the general framework of development and the new structure, approved strategies and the adoption of a financial method for planning, making use of industrial balances and scientific surveys whenever possible.

7. The state planning body will be given a role commensurate with its capacity as the primary planning instrument in the country. This body will be strengthened and encouraged to use modern technology in formulating statistical reports, import and export tables, commodities balances, energy balances and all other tabulations so as to achieve harmony between the components of any one project and other projects.

This body will be injected with specialized scientific expertise and will be supplied with the necessary incentives to separate and classify its tasks and bolster planning organs in the various ministries, institutions and establishments of the state.

B. The Public Sector.

Since its establishment, the public sector has been performing a major role in leading the national economy in the agricultural and industrial fields and the services sector. Although the industrial revolution rose on the shoulders of the public sector, this sector is still endeavoring to assert its efficacy in the agricultural domain.

In the services sector and the fields of domestic trade, supplies and foreign trade, the public sector has been able to take big strides toward meeting the needs of the people in most services. This enhances our confidence that this sector has led the national economy during important phases and continues to carry out its task despite all the obstacles and difficulties. Perhaps the most important achievement of the public sector was initiating the policy's objectives. In this domain, the government is faced with the necessity of attaining the following steps:

1. To review the laws and statutes of establishments and institutions so as to emancipate them from routine and administrative restrictions and to provide them with flexibility in work and performances.

2. To grant direct powers to those in leading posts.

3. To concentrate on field work for the productive and economic leaderships; to continue to coordinate steps of an economic nature; to lower costs and squandering and to develop the system of incentives and link it accurately with productivity yardsticks.

4. To operate current investment projects and those under study to raise the level of productivity in the best manner so as to improve the level of productive performance.

5. To rely on self-financing and expedite the modernization of the technology used in the production of commodities to enable these commodities to compete with foreign products; to direct companies in the public sector toward export, and reliance on the theory of direct cost in this connection.

6. To continue to apply the system of productivity councils and the system of computation of costs and accrued accounts in establishments.

7. To strengthen the centers of industrial research and studies and to give them their suitable role in improving production specifications and monitoring products.

C. The Joint Private Sectors.

The government will seek to expand the framework of the joint sector experiment and will concentrate on production projects of this sector, benefiting from the industrial, trade and agricultural productivity of the private sector. The government will encourage the private sector so that it can complement the public sector and contribute to the economic development programs. It will also encourage artisan industries of all kinds and urge the productive national capital to perform its role in contributing directly to the establishment of agricultural, industrial and trade projects and in bearing its share in the responsibility of development. The government will extend facilities to this capital in this connection.

D. The Agricultural Issue.

In view of the extreme importance of agriculture in economic life, the government will give this sector first priority in order to expedite development by providing this sector with an appropriate structure that enables it to release potentials and invest available resources so as to bring about a tangible increase in production. In this domain, the government's aim will be to exert the following efforts:

1. To reassess the current structure of the departments employed in agriculture in a manner that brings about the unity of productivity posts and eradicates duplication in tasks and powers.

2. To strike a balance between horizontal and vertical expansion projects; to give appropriate qualitative importance to investment; to consider the availability of the requirements of modern production, the key to advanced agriculture; to raise the level of agricultural exploitation; to solve agricultural problems related to salinity, flooding and continuous irrigation; to make good use of limestone soil; to improve existing irrigation networks; and to prevent soil erosion.

3. To improve research, counseling and training institutions and to raise the productivity and qualifications of those employed in these institutions; to tackle the current imbalance in the structure of the agricultural sector resulting from the faulty distribution and dispersal of small homesteads; and to tackle the turbulence in the existing investment relations among the production sides with a view to improving and containing [as heard] the system of agricultural relations so as to contribute to raising the level of production in quality and quantity.

4. To expand agricultural mechanization and activate the establishment of land reclamation and maintenance stations; to make available suitable conditions for the establishment of cooperative and productive farms and state farms, and for expanding these farms on reclaimed land; and to transform services cooperatives into productive cooperatives.

5. To develop the use of dry and irrigated land; to continue to achieve an integration between vegetal and zoological production; to encourage the use of modern methods in irrigation by sprinklers and plant protection; to follow up on the implementation of afforestation projects and fruit tree plantings and preserving them from destruction; and to implement the projects for establishing the green belt.

6. To apply a pricing policy that will bring agricultural and other incomes closer; to increase interest in animal wealth; to formulate an integrated plan to develop the desert; to develop cattle wealth; to develop a balanced policy between the development of animal wealth and the animals' requirements for feed; to improve veterinary care and the strain of local cows; and to improve the level of performance in poultry, fish and feed establishments.

7. To formulate a programmed plan to end the operations of land demarcation and the transfer of land ownership; to end common ownership of land; to facilitate procedures and provide technical cadres.

8. To check land salinity and improve the projects of As-Sin, Al-Ghab, the Euphrates Lower Basin and the Ar-Rawji; to develop these projects in the fields of irrigation, drainage and investment; to formulate a plan to conclude land reclamation and irrigation in Lake al-Asad, behind the Euphrates Dam; to conclude the reclamation work in Bir al-Hashm; to establish irrigation and drainage networks; to equip and operate the pumping station; to build the canal's major outlet; to complete the implementation of irrigation and drainage networks in an area of 13,000 hectares west of the Maskanah Basin and 13,500 hectares in the Euphrates Central Basin; to begin soil studies at the pumping station and the canal's major outlet in order to irrigate the rest of the Maskanah Basin and the Aleppo plans; and to complete the necessary studies to carry out the implementation plans and complete preliminary operations to begin building the regular dam.

9. To equip the drainage wells in an area comprising 48,000 hectares on the right bank of the Lower Euphrates Basin; to implement the reclamation operations in the rest of sector No 1 of the Al-Ballikh Basin, in an area comprising 11,000 hectares; and to construct the second phase of the main lower canal in the Al-Ballikh Basin for a length of 52 kilometers.

Furthermore, the fifth 5-year plan includes the total implementation of the first and second phases of the drainage operations and the irrigation projects on the right bank of the Lower Euphrates Basin in an area comprising 30,000 hectares. The plan also aims at concluding the studies and contracts to implement the irrigation and drainage networks on the left bank of the Lower Euphrates Basin in an area comprising 40,000 hectares. The plan includes a project concerning 50,000 hectares in West Maskanah; the equipping and operation of the pumping station; the readying of the main canal, which will irrigate the remaining plains in West Maskanah and Aleppo; the implementation of reclamation operations in the East Maskanah project in an area comprising 18,000 hectares and in sector No 2 of the Al-Ballikh Basin in an area comprising 26,000 hectares.

E. Oil and the Mineral Wealth.

1. To continue exploratory activity, to expand oil and gas prospecting operations and to improve the national teams; to exploit gas byproducts which accompany the production of oil; and to operate the Baniyas refinery on schedule.

2. To improve methods of transporting and loading oil and oil byproducts; to eradicate congestion by laying a 12-inch pipeline between Homs and 'Adhar; and to insure the availability of the required gas cylinders for circulation.

3. To continue to develop the projects and studies of the mineral wealth and ores, such as phosphate, rock salt and marble; to build the gypsum brick factory; to process iron ores; and to prospect for chromium, magnesium and copper ores.

4. To draw up an oil policy that is in harmony with local production and to guide local consumption so as to restrict the importation of oil derivatives.

F. Domestic Trade, Supplies and Prices.

Domestic trade produces a continuous connection between the two stages of production and consumption. It meets the requirements of the security of supplies, and through prices, it affects the distribution and redistribution of national income. In this field, the government's measures will be as follows:

1. To continue to intervene positively in the domestic market and in the state's control of the wholesale trade; to deal directly with producers without resorting to middlemen; to deal directly with consumers and retail merchants; to develop the government's retail trade by diversifying goods; to raise the level of performance and to extend services to the rural areas and the large labor and housing concentration points.

2. To consider consumer cooperatives as equals of the public sector and to develop and improve these cooperatives by issuing a new law and establishing the consumer cooperatives union; to seek to provide consumer goods in suitable quantities and to provide a necessary reserve.

3. To preserve the stability of prices and services fees and to strike a balance between them and the level of income; to regulate markets and vocational trade; to improve the standard of control of the trade market using modern means; to improve research laboratories; and to encourage popular, trade union and certain government organs in maintaining this control.

4. To continue to improve the quality of bread; to expand the volume of flour production; to expand the system of government electric bakeries; and to monitor bakeries in the private sector.

5. To expand the network of government storage and distribution centers and to adopt scientific methods in the planning and programming of domestic trade.

G. Foreign Trade.

The foreign trade plan aims at contributing to the formulation and implementation of the general economic policy. It is also aimed at providing national strength and channeling development steps in a manner that is compatible with the requirements for alleviating the rate of inflation, while insuring a sufficient reserve of foreign currencies. In order to expedite the achievement of this goal, the plan centers its efforts on the following aspects:

1. To boost economic relations with the Arab countries by adopting a joint Arab economic strategy for insuring national security and an effective food and technological order; to water down the ratio of reliance on the foreign world; to develop the Arab economic unity agreement; to implement the contents of the Arab common market agreement; and to consolidate economic relations with the Islamic, socialist and friendly countries.

2. To concentrate on alleviating the trade deficit with regard to national output; to draft a plan to use foreign currencies as an indicator; to encourage exports and to guide imports. Contributions in the field of exports should be coupled with continued encouragement of industrial and agricultural production, an increase in the surplus of exports, support for the trade institutions from technical elements and contribution to international markets and fairs.

3. To limit the increase in imports; to prevent any smuggling of necessary goods outside the country; and to participate in implementing an accurate price policy by formulating a price policy for necessary goods. Our guiding principle is to encourage local production of consumer goods, with which to replace imported goods, and to give first priority in imports to raw materials necessary for production; to guarantee the equipment and machinery necessary to set up productive projects; to limit the import of unnecessary goods; to pursue a system of substituting local products; to reflect prices in the country of origin; and to meet the country's requirements in imports with the best specifications, at the lowest prices and in accordance with timetables that will provide local market mobility for these goods that is compatible with the ports' dissemination capabilities.

H. The Banking, Monetary and Financial Policy

In the course of implementing its financial and monetary policy, the government will achieve the following plans:

1. To end the accumulation of income taxes and to collect these taxes as soon as possible, and to take the necessary measures to expedite the collection of the taxes.

2. To economize on administrative expenditures in government and economic sectors and to make local resources available in order to support development projects; to improve financial and auditing administrations; to achieve a continued balance between the levels of prices and wages; and to end the traces of inflation.

3. To reconsider the legislation pertaining to compensations and remunerations in a way that will insure a just compensation for every distinguished deed in order to create incentives among the state's workers to increase production and improve performance.

4. To increase economic surpluses by supporting the economic public sector, in order to use all of its productive resources.

5. To reconsider income tax rates on profits gained by commercial and noncommercial professions and skills, by relying basically on real profits, and to alleviate the income tax on estimated profits and fixed income.

6. To reconsider the structure of tax legislation in order to achieve justice in distributing the tax burden among the citizens; to draft provisions for defining the principle of income taxes and for differentiating between corporate and ordinary individuals in terms of proportions and rates of taxes; to develop the tax apparatus and to simplify procedures.

7. To give priority in banking transfers to effective domestic and industrial sectors and to necessary exports and imports.

8. To see to it that the joint and public sectors finance a large part of their effective tasks from their own resources and not through the banking system. This would lead to the entry of private capital, to improvement in the balance of payments and to encouraging the funding of those with limited incomes that do not enable them to achieve adequate investments for financing their needs.

9. To support the monetary aspects of the tax policy in order to absorb a large part of the surplus purchasing power by improving and expanding the available investment institutions by imposing better supervision upon the banking system, by simplifying the withdrawal and deposit processes and by spreading banks all over the country, particularly in remote areas and production centers.

10. To prepare bank employees and to reconsider the banks' interest rates in an attempt to encourage the private sector to utilize its capital abroad, to supply its own effective factors and to support and improve the investment certificates system.

Fourth: Services.

During past years of development Syria faced increasing and mounting demands for social, health and housing services, for organization of the domestic and international transport routes, for provision of drinking water, for promotion of electricity services, and for a wider consumption of supply commodities and modern industrial products.

The increase in these needs is an inevitable result of the expansion of the economic institutions, the availability of job opportunities as related to the population explosion, the continued transformation of human societies in the towns and countryside, the spread of modern aspects in the standard of living, mounting expenditures and the developed consumption methods. This produces unparalleled social changes and service demands and has led to an increasingly strangling crisis. Accordingly, the government had to attach special importance to erecting utilities and to providing the citizens with services. This constitutes a social commitment in which the government has to shoulder its responsibilities toward society. Therefore, the policy of improving services to cover all fields and absorbing all issues pertaining to the citizen's cost of living, so that equality can be achieved between societal development and that of services, is important today.

In its seventh regional congress, the Ba'th Party attached great importance to this subject. This was clearly shown in its resolutions. The result was an increase in wages and salaries for those working in the government and the public sector, as a necessary step toward achieving a balance between income rates and the standard of living. Accordingly, the government will shoulder heavy burdens in order to achieve its objectives in the following areas:

A. Tourism.

In 1980, the ministry will implement the projects that were begun in accordance with the fourth 5-year plan. These projects are:

1. To complete two international hotels in Latakia and Palmyra and to open them at the end of next November; to open motels in Judaydat al-Wadi; to erect a tourist camp in Ra's al-Basit; to prepare a study on two camps in Latakia and Tartus; to conduct engineering studies for the establishment of a hotel and tourism training center in Latakia; and to set up tourist installations around Al-Asad Lake.

2. To increase the capital of the Syrian company for tourist installations, enabling it to implement projects; to contribute to increasing the capital of the Al-Karnak Tourism Company and toward its purchase of a sufficient number of cars; to build rest-houses in Ma'lula, Al-Mashta and Jablah; to develop the tourism training center in Damascus; and to cooperate with the Arab and friendly countries in establishing co-operation that will lead to joint tourism marketing.

B. Housing Plan and Building of Utilities.

The government intends to chart a housing policy to remedy the housing crisis and to insure economic and healthy houses for those in the low-income bracket, in accordance with the following bases:

1. To develop the countryside in order to curb rural migration; to guarantee the land and to provide housing upon it; to implement law No 60; to support the cooperative sector and to eliminate the obstacles facing it; to finance the public and cooperative sectors by introducing flexibility to the methods and regulations on loans; to control the purchase of houses; and to reconsider rents.

2. To draft organizational plans for housing developments; to restudy current plans in light of the development plans; and to introduce a unified system for construction in towns and villages.

3. To proceed in accordance with specific priorities in implementing new water projects in the countryside so as to cover the country's needs; to support and renew current water systems in the towns and rural areas; to improve the quality of water; to set up sewage systems for housing developments whose organizational plans and water networks have been completed; to expand sewage systems to a level that is compatible with construction; and to erect centers for the repair of sewage systems in Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Homs and Hamah.

4. To erect a regional center for the training of technical cadres and specialists in the various fields and to supervise their implementation.

C. Transport, Communications and Electricity.

The transport plan is for the purpose of elevating the level of land, air and sea transport and developing ports, airports, railroads, and domestic and international routes. The government's objectives in transport are manifested in the following areas:

1. To increase the means of transport, to modernize them in the towns and provinces in terms of transporting both passengers and goods, and to organize their function in a way that promotes their capacity and income.

2. To complete the Latakia-Al-Qamishli railroad, to erect the necessary stations and automatic signs, and to complete the following railroads: 'Akkari-Homs-Damascus and Homs-Mahin-phosphate mines; to renew the Aleppo-Homs-Hama link; to erect the Dayr az-Zawr-Albukamal line; and to study the Damascus-Dar'a-Amman-Medina system.

3. To expedite the development of harbors and ports and to provide them with machinery and equipment; to expand the port of Latakia and to raise its capacity from 1.5 million tons to 5 million tons annually; and to implement the first stage in construction of piers.

4. To complete the Tartus port installations by erecting the sulphur piers; to complete the piers, the storage lots and public buildings; and to complete the fishing and picnic ports in Jablah, Baniyas and Latakia.

5. To complete the Damascus Airport terminal, to build aircraft runways and to expand the short runway; to complete the works at Latakia Airport; and to build an airport in Al-Hasakah.

6. The total length of the primary roads to be completed within the next stage is 1600 kms. The most important of these are: the Damascus-Jordanian border, the Damascus-Lebanese border, the Aleppo-Mansij-Qarah Qawzak-Iraqi border, the Damascus-Palmyra-Dayr az-Zawr-Ariha-Latakia, the Homs-Tartus-Latakia-Kassab-Turkish border and the Al-Ghab-As-Sahil systems. Work is underway to erect two bridges on the Euphrates in Jarabulus and Albukamal. This is in addition to several local roads in the provinces and to the development of the central transport apparatus.

7. To create new post offices and branches and to expand telecommunications services by no less than 200,000 lines in the towns and rural centers; 60,000 of these lines will be connected to automatic exchanges and another 10,000 lines will be connected to manual exchanges. These lines will be put into service during 1980.

8. To complete the overseas lines projects; to implement the external exchanges and the fourth stage of the axial cable; to renew the microwave project; and to provide the necessary preventive maintenance to reduce damages and to discover them before they occur.

9. To guarantee enough electrical energy to supply all industrial and agricultural projects; to expedite the completion of the Baniyas power station with a capacity of 2-150 MW [as heard]; to start construction of the southern power station with a capacity of 2-150 MW; and to develop and boost electricity networks in the towns and rural areas.

10. To provide electricity to one village per day throughout 1980; to connect the Syrian electricity network to the neighboring countries' networks, in order to improve their stability; to benefit from all kinds of energy in the country, particularly in economic aspects, including solar and wind energy; and to complete the studies pertaining to the establishment of nuclear stations in Syria.

D. Public Works

1. To complete the work in the water basins; to provide a water center to follow up on developments in water resources, including surface and ground waters; to improve water sources; to protect them from pollution; to study and design other major dams on the Al-Khabur, Orontes, As-Sarut, 'Afrin, Barada, and Al-'Awaj Rivers, as well as on the rivers of Sahal 'Akar and on irrigation networks and to intensify efforts to erect surface dams on seasonal streams.

2. To develop the current methods of land reclamation regarding organizational and technical aspects; to increase the irrigated areas; to exploit available water resources; to combat pollution of surface and ground waters by human and industrial wastes; to use modern methods to protect the environment; and to support and expand the vocational institutes' training of assistant technicians in all engineering specializations.

E. Health.

The government policy is aimed at providing health, medical and preventive services and at achieving the following objectives:

1. To apply the health security law incrementally and in a programmed plan; to eliminate obstacles preventing the citizens from benefiting from the present health institutions; to find a suitable order for first aid services in towns and rural areas; to concentrate on preventive services; to expand the training programs for technical elements and to give special attention to doctors.

2. To increase coordination and cooperation among parties directly concerned with health services; to amend the health legislation and laws; to enact a new law for those who specialize in medical services and a new law with regard to the service of doctors and specialists in rural areas; and to implement the fourth 5-year plan's health projects.

F. Education, Culture and Information.

The cultural, educational and information activities derive their importance from the fact that they represent the basic means of conveying knowledge, science, expertise, discoveries and all aspects of the general development of the Syrian man. Although their methods of application vary, they play the most dangerous role in creating qualified capabilities and expertise and in forming political, social and cultural stands. The specialized institutions shoulder grave responsibilities in renewing their programs in order to achieve these objectives. The government attaches importance to these sectors equal to their contribution to developing generations, stands and societies. Therefore, the government contributes to these sectors in the following fields:

1. Education:

A) To fully modernize all educational administrations and organs; to implement the principle of centralization of planning and not centralization of application; to consider the educational sector as a productive sector; to improve and develop the educational programs; and to make this part of the fifth 5-year plan.

B) To develop compulsory education in order to achieve its all-round and developmental goals; to attach importance to scientific education, to increase its students, to supply it with the necessary equipment and to expand female participation in it; to continue to develop educational programs in their first stage in a manner compatible with economic development; to consolidate socialist and pan-Arab concepts; to promote the standard of teachers; to support the trade unions and organizations participating in the educational process; to participate in the eradication of illiteracy; and to promote the standard of nurseries.

2. Higher Education.

A) To achieve a better connection between educational planning and development projects; to provide the means for theoretical and practical research; to benefit maximally from the university specialization law; and to make higher education a tool for movement and progress.

B) To conduct a comprehensive study to expand higher education, based on the country's needs, until the year 2,000, distributed among the successive 5-year plans.

C) To complete the projects that are being implemented in the Universities of Damascus, Aleppo, Tishrin and Al-Ba'th--particularly hospitals, students' boarding units, maternity, and schools of medicine, arts, education, dentistry and agriculture--to furnish the buildings with laboratories and advanced equipment, in order to achieve a better future for contemporary technical and scientific research; to develop and modernize the educational programs; to guide students toward various specializations; to prepare the necessary studies to build a university in Dayr az-Zawr; to build more vocational institutes that can provide the link missing between the designer engineer and the executor laborer; to empower the Higher Council for Vocational Institutes; and to complete the buildings of these institutes in all provinces.

D) To develop cultural agreements with the Arab and friendly foreign countries; to bring in contemporary science and technology; to hold conferences and seminars in the country; and to exchange delegations through international conferences and seminars.

3. Culture.

Syria's cultural plan derives its principles from the socialist and pan-Arab ideological line, with its civilized foundations. The plan is intended to expand Arab cultural unity and to spread knowledge and vigilance. The cultural plan aims at achieving the following:

A) To elevate the level of cultural centers; to reactivate these centers on the local Arab and international levels; and to render them genuine cultural channels.

B) To implement the plan on eradicating illiteracy; to introduce compulsory elementary education; in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the popular organizations, to mobilize all resources; and to provide all necessary means to permit the eradication of illiteracy in all provinces.

C) To increase the number of published books to over 100 books per year; to continue to issue the Al-Mukhtar series on Arab heritage; to develop the magazines of knowledge, theatrical life and cinematic life; to create a magazine specializing in abstract arts; to change publication of the children's magazine USAMA from biweekly to weekly; and to publish a youth magazine in future.

D) To build the Al-Asad national library; to build the national theatre; to build the movie center; to develop the national, experimental and roving theatre; to enable the Fine Arts Directorate to perform its duties; to create additional new centers for the abstract and applied arts; to insure a roving artistic unit; to develop methods in the cinema and music institutes; to give attention to expatriates and to establish cultural weeks in various countries.

E) To explore relics; to renovate historic sites; and to build specialized museums in the provinces.

4. Information.

In the field of information, the government will continue to support the information institutions, to enable them to develop their technical methods. The government will attach special importance to building information cadres, in order to utilize the technical progress achieved in the information institutions toward better political and vocational results. The government will expedite the completion of television and radio stations, particularly those in Albukamal, 'Ayn al-'Arab and As-Suwayda'; it will modernize the stations in Homs, Aleppo and (Salanfah) and expedite the work on the medium wave and shortwave radio stations in the 'Adra area so as to inaugurate them within 1 year.

The government will also attach importance to building a center for television production that will meet both our local needs and our pan-Arab requirements. We will consider the creation of a second television channel within the next 5-year plan. The government will give the necessary support to developing the Syrian establishment for printing distribution so as to enable it to spread its services and to complete construction of its branches in the various provinces and administrative areas.

5. Consolidation of the society's spiritual values.

The government is committed to a primary duty in building and expanding man's spiritual structure and in consolidating his values. The government will achieve this in accordance with the following principles:

A) To promote the standard of those working in the Ministry of Awqaf on the religious and cultural levels to a level compatible with the spirit of Islamic law.

B) To formulate pan-Arab bases for religious guidance in the various fields; to abide by the sublime objectives and spiritual values; and to make the mosques centers for spiritual, cultural, social and educational enlightenment, in accordance with the true values and principles of true Islam.

C) To support the Shar' education; to prepare advanced programs; to participate in building social institutions and charitable centers; and to spread sound Islamic vigilance.

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen members of the People's Assembly: In our program, we tried to make it a point to choose what we can actually implement, what is related to vital issues, what is related to an economic and productive strategy in the social structure, and what can provide this country with the power and ability to confront the big challenges which surround it and this area. We chose the revolutionary line to be the premise for tackling the people's problems and production problems and for disciplining, guiding and releasing the masses' creative potentials in an atmosphere of the highest sense of common responsibility among all the sons of this homeland.

We chose this revolutionary line to be the premise for the state's decisions and measures in expressing the resolutions of the party's seventh regional congress and in expressing the pan-Arab role which has become Syria's contemporary history and destiny and has transformed it into a frontline in the arena, which is witnessing a fierce struggle against Zionism, imperialism and the capitulatory schemes against the essence of the Arab nation's identity and its march to attain its objectives of unity, liberty and socialism.

Since definite problems and issues arise from time to time, the solutions we are drawing up for these problems and issues will be embodied in accurate time schedules which will be followed up, controlled and firmly and expeditiously implemented. Our goal will always be the building of the individual, the system, the productive structure and the steadfast homeland at a stage which requires a balance between building and the steps in building and between the unity of the objective and its dimensions. What is most important, this stage requires total vigilance and understanding of the current reality and the future. Circumstances no longer allow us to dawdle and shirk our duty. The acceleration of the age will make any stumbling on the development march an unjustified regression from the wheel of world progress.

What is even more important is that all these plans, programs and goals should be bolstered by the strength of the individual, which springs from his liberty, sense of dignity and confidence in himself and his state and in his national and pan-Arab role. This strength springs fromthe individual's sense of commitment to his society, and this commitment comes by providing the individual with liberty and dignity, by guaranteeing the sovereignty of the law in his country, and by shunning any manifestation of transgression against the public system. It also comes by providing the individual with regular and effective services and by making him feel that his security in his country is his right. The individual's commitment to his society is also created by making him realize that as the largest social institution, the state firmly repulses all conspirators and saboteurs, whatever their masks and means, who are linked with Zionism and imperialism, which aim at attacking the homeland from inside and outside and at besieging it from all sides in order to crush its will and determination for unity, struggle, building, development and firmness in the pan-Arab arena. Syria is the most impregnable bastion of steadfastness and confrontation on whose defiant and solid walls the waves of conspiracies, pressures and aggression are crushed.

Undoubtedly, before the lofty edifice of our democratic institutions and popular organizations, the struggle of our workers, peasants, intellectuals, wage earners, artisans and producers and the ever increasing might of the Arab Syrian people's potentials, all our tasks become one mission with one objective, which is strengthened by a high sense of social and national responsibility. Through our unity, brotherhood and sincerity, we will be worthy of a strong, productive and struggling homeland which does not bend or surrender and in which every citizen will feel proud of his freedom, dignity, status and role in giving, creating and producing in an atmosphere of amity, confidence and peace of mind, knowing that all the abundance in this homeland is for all the sons of this homeland without exception or discrimination.

I hope your gracious assembly, which represents the people's authority, will, eyes and ears, will discuss everything that came in this statement through this aspiration and this national and pan-Arab trend so that cooperation will be the basis of the joint efforts and one of the values of our popular democratic system.

All of us--the people, party and assembly--will begin confronting this new stage, bearing in mind what President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of our great march, meant when he said: We are building a stage in which I want every citizen to have a role and in which I assign responsibility to every citizen. The homeland needs all its sons. There are opportunities for all and responsible work for all. We are building the homeland and waging the Arab nation's battle against the enemies. No negligence should impede our march.

Let us all work together and join hands for our united goal. May God grant us success. Peace be upon you.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES BURUNDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

JN231323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs, and the Burundian ambassador to Tripoli today.

Official talks between the Syrian side under 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Burundian side under Edouard Nzambimana began this morning.

The talks were attended by Raslan 'Allush, director of the African Department at the Syrian Foreign Ministry; Lutfi al-Atrash, director of the special offices at the ministry; Emile Shuwayri, director of the information department at the ministry; and 'Isa 'Awad, assistant director of the African Department. On the Burundian side, the talks were attended by Protais Mangona, Burundian ambassador to Libya; (Bernan Rampe), director of the planning department; and (Bernan Sanzo), a consultant at the Burundian Foreign Ministry.

The two sides discusses current international issues of mutual concern, the Middle East and African situations and the situation of the Zimbabwe people in particular. They also discussed bilateral relations and means to develop them and cooperation in the economic, cultural and scientific fields. The two sides had identical views on all the issues discussed, particularly in the field of strengthening Arab-African cooperation in the service of the Arab states and Africa through the nonalined group.

Mutual Relations Discussed

JN231927 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1245 today Edouard Nzambimana, Burundian minister of foreign affairs, and the Burundian ambassador to Tripoli.

The visiting minister thanked the president for receiving him and conveyed to the president the Burundian president's greetings and admiration for the wise policy of President al-Asad and Syria's progressive stands.

The discussion covered the struggle of the Arab and African nations. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab world and Africa. The discussions confirmed the common struggle stands of Syria and Burundi. The Burundian foreign minister affirmed his country's support for the Arab nations' struggle and belief that a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be reached without Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including the return of Jerusalem to the Arabs. He denounced the Camp David accords and As-Sadat's capitulatory policy saying: This policy will result in pressure being put on the African nations.

The president said that the Camp David sides failed in their plan to have other Arab sides follow in As-Sadat's footsteps. He added: We will not submit to pressure and Israel's expansionist aims. The talks confirmed the strengthening of Arab-African cooperation and exploration of further means of Syrian-Burundian cooperation. The visiting minister expressed his satisfaction with the results of his talks in Damascus.

Ends Visit

JN241124 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Feb 80 JN

[Text] The Burundian minister of foreign affairs left Damascus today following a 4-day visit to Syria. While in Syria, the Burundian minister held talks with high-ranking Syrian officials on bilateral relations.

Joint Statement

JN242037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--A joint statement was issued in Damascus today on the Syrian-Burundi talks which took place from 21 to 24 February 1980. The statement says that the two sides reviewed the existing strong ties between the two friendly countries and agreed on ways to strengthen and deepen them at all levels and in all fields.

The two sides dealt in detail with the current serious developments in the Middle East. They strongly condemned the separate agreements and treaties, considering them as a flagrant violation of the principles of the United Nations and the OAU. The two sides affirmed their resolve to continue the common struggle to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the area, stressing that such a peace can only be achieved through the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's full rights, including their right to establish their independent state on their own land.

The two sides reviewed Israel's devious practices in the occupied territories, especially the establishment of settlements, which constitutes a grave violation of the Geneva conventions and a serious obstacle to a just and lasting peace. The two sides agreed that following the signing of the London agreement it has become essential now more than at any time to be particularly careful not to give the enemies of Africa the chance to achieve their mean designs. The Burundi side praised the Syrian people's great efforts in all fields of development under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. It also praised Syria's role in defense of the rights of the African peoples and the Arab nation. The Syrian side praised Burundi's continuous support for the Arab nation in general and the Palestinians in particular.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH ARABS, OTHER ISSUES

JN250847 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 23 Feb 80 pp 34-40 JN

[Text of interview given by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL's correspondent Fu'ad Mater--date not given]

[Excerpt] Good Neighborliness With Morocco

[Question] What did you mean when you said that the Moroccan leadership does not know the Algerian people well, particularly as, in all of our discussions with Algerian officials, we hear them repeat this when they speak of Algeria's relations with others?

[Answer] We believe in the unity of peoples. We also believe in the need for cooperation and good neighborliness. Our behavior has always been conducted on this basis.

During the ordeal through which we have passed, some brothers tried to incite disturbances in our country by sending arms to one of Algeria's eastern quarters. Apparently they think that disturbances might occur in this area. In so doing, they proved that they know nothing about our people, nor have they realised that any danger threatening this revolution would only motivate the people to rally increasingly around their national leadership. This is what actually took place.

We exerted all efforts to cleanse the atmosphere of all negative aspects that could prove burdensome to future generations. However, honest cooperation and good neighborliness with all parties should exist.

We are exerting our utmost efforts for stability and peace in the area, because we believe that our real enemy is backwardness. Efforts should be concerted to eradicate it.

There is a revolution in Algeria, but we do not believe in exporting revolutions. We do believe that it is the right of every people to determine their future and the form of their regime by themselves. We adopt the principle of nonintervention in others' domestic affairs, particularly in those of our neighbors. It is not in our interest to foment tension around us.

[Question] Don't you think that some kind of flexibility on your part would create a better atmosphere in your relations with Morocco?

[Answer] I have said on more than one occasion that we do not harbor enmity or hatred for our brothers in Morocco. I have also said that we are prepared to participate in anything that will stop the bloodshed in the Western Sahara. However, I believe that the brothers in Morocco are not exerting the same efforts or that they do not want to.

The principal dispute between us involves our divergent views on the Sahara issue. We hold that there is a fait accompli called the Saharan people. Most of the world--directly or indirectly--has recognized this people's struggle to determine their future. This is evident in the stands adopted by international and regional organizations, the latest of which is the report compiled by the African wisemen committee. Morocco itself called for the formation of this committee at the Khartoum conference.

I reaffirm that I am prepared to exert every effort to insure stability and security in the area, in light of the international charters and the desire of the area's peoples. I also confirm that we have no territorial or other demands. Our sole demand is peace, because it is the only weapon against backwardness. Our policy is to respect the peoples' will, their ideological and political system.

[Question] Have Algerian-Libyan relations been affected by the Tunisian insinuations, indications and accusations, which appeared to be aimed partly at creating contradictions between the Libyan and Algerian revolutions? Also, what is required for Algerian-Libyan relations to become warmer? And has Colonel al-Qadhdhafi proposed the idea of unity to you and, if so, did you reject it?

[Answer] Our relations with Libya are good. We are unionists and we believe in unity, which does not reflect merely the leadership's desire.

As far as I am concerned, I believe that unity is like marriage. Marriage can never be successful if founded on sentiment alone. There are important factors necessary to bring about the success of any unity, foremost of which are a vigilant popular will, the integration of interests among those participating in the unity and the need to benefit from past experiences and to reassess them soundly and objectively.

The peoples of this area were one people. However, today there is a regional reality, there are sovereign states and there are various political experiments. We cannot ignore all of this if we wish to establish an indivisible unity.

The Events in Tunisia

[Question] I have three questions about recent events in Tunisia on which I would like to hear the president's opinion. First: Is what happened in Tunisia an internal affair or is it much more than that? Second: Do you believe that the French military role in Tunisia will affect the relative relaxation in Algerian-French relations or was this relaxation, which was brought about by your foreign minister's visit to France, upset as a result of France's entry as a military party to an internal crisis in an Arab Maghreb state? Third: If the French military role in Tunisia increases and is accompanied by a U.S. military role within the framework of arming Tunisia with modern weapons, how will you face this matter?

[Answer] I believe that what happened in Tunisia is an internal affair that primarily concerns the Tunisian people. However, it also concerns us, in view of our desire to guarantee stability in the region and to avoid any incidents that might be used as justification for the intervention of foreign forces. This is a matter that cannot be tolerated on our border and we consider it a threat to our revolution and to peace in the entire region.

On behalf of the political leadership, I have officially proclaimed that Algeria has absolutely nothing to do with what happened in our neighboring fraternal country. I affirmed our belief in the principles of honest cooperation and the policy of good neighborliness with our neighbors, to the east and the west. Since we reject foreign intervention in our affairs, we apply this to our own country and do not permit ourselves to interfere in others' affairs. The history of the region stands witness to this.

Naturally, the reports that reached us contained a lot of contradiction. However, I voiced my frank opinion to the states concerned. I received a special envoy from the Tunisian Government, who assured me that there is no foreign military presence on Tunisian soil. Therefore, our stand is clear.

[Question] Can the president specify what Algeria will do in case the French and U.S. military roles in Tunisia increase?

[Answer] All I can say is that it is still too early to talk about this.

The Iranian Revolution

[Question] What are the motives behind your strong backing for the Iranian Revolution? Don't you feel that the quality and factionalism of its Islamic theses are in contradiction to the Arab revolution? What have you offered this revolution thus far? Are you ready to fight on its side if it is exposed to foreign danger? Since what is happening in Afghanistan is also an Islamic revolution, why don't you adopt a similar stance on this revolution?

[Answer] To answer this question we must first bear in mind where Iran stood prior to the revolution. The regime was hostile to the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause. It fully supported Israel and its stands ran counter to Arab interests. This is a state of affairs that we all experienced. In addition, we all know about the suffering experienced by the people in Iran prior to the revolution.

Therefore, our stand on the Iranian Revolution is one of support and backing, for we believe that Iran offers strategic depth to the Arab world. Furthermore, its stands in support of the Palestinian revolution and against the partial agreements concluded at the expense of the Palestinian people are revolutionary stands. This means that the Iranian Revolution is a positive factor in the region. There might be some contradictions, but this is natural in all popular revolutions.

Following the eruption of the Islamic revolution in Iran, there was a tremendous clamor in the Western world. Islam became synonymous with racism, terrorism, savagery and anarchy. The Western press media launched strange campaigns against Islam.

All of a sudden, following the events in Afghanistan, a new tune emerged, speaking about struggling Islam and revolutionary Islam. Those who attacked the Islamic revolution began to sing its praises. This makes one wonder.

As far as we are concerned, our stands are based on our convictions. We are an Arab Islamic state that believes in nonalinement and rejects any foreign intervention in our domestic affairs. We have voiced our opinion frankly to our brothers and friends. We expressed our viewpoint without allowing ourselves to fall into the colonialist trap.

[Question] The president did not say what Algeria will do if the Iranian Revolution is exposed to danger?

[Answer] We support the Iranian Revolution without reservation. We are proud of the confidence of the Iranian Revolution. We will not hesitate to carry out our duty, as dictated by our principles.

The United States and the Soviet Union

[Question] Did the United States propose an initiative by which to rectify the course of Algerian-U.S. political relations so that they match the excellent economic relations? Do you feel that your relations with the Soviet Union need to be reviewed?

[Answer] We know that both the Soviet Union and the United States are superpowers. Each has its own strategy and interests. We deal with everyone on the basis of preserving both our national independence and the exclusive Algerian character in our political decisions. We have no complexes about the superpowers, because we abide by the principles of nonalinement.

Following the nationalization of oil in 1971 and the seige imposed on Algerian oil, we were forced to approach the market that will take our oil. Thus, the scope of our cooperation with the United States in this field increased, although we differ with the United States on many political stands.

At the same time, we believe in the principle of diversifying our economic cooperation. We deal with all countries on the basis of serving common interests.

Our relations with the Soviet Union are good. We have no problems with it and no intention of reviewing any stands. However, our friendship with the Soviet Union can never prevent us from giving them our frank opinion on any stand with which we are dissatisfied.

[Question] Does the president believe that there is a chance for better relations with the United States?

[Answer] We are of the opinion that U.S. policy is drafted in light of the election campaign's demands and with the aim of satisfying specific groups. This means that, most of the time, U.S. policy is dictated by local pressures that do not take our reality and rights into account.

[Question] Would you change your point of view if the United States were to reconsider the Camp David accords?

[Answer] This would undoubtedly be an important factor, because our principal differences involve the United States' absolute support for Israel and the fact that it has made no attempt to bring pressure to bear on Israel and to find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

Even if Egypt remains all of Sinai and even if Syria regains all of the Golan, the Palestinian people's problem will continue to exist. And as this problem is the crux of the issue, leaving it without a just and real solution renders all other solutions both false and temporary.

[Question] Does the president believe that that which was taken by force can only be restored by force?

[Answer] My answer to this question is: Is there any serious action today to unify Arab efforts, to overcome bilateral differences and to liquidate internal disputes?

One of the basic forces in the confrontation has left the battle and has chosen a course of alliance with the enemy against the Arab countries. What is the position of the other forces? As a nation, do we possess the freedom to adopt a decision and to implement it?

[Question] Can we assume that you are about to draft some kind of a formula to confront the current Arab reality?

[Answer] It is no secret that all of our stands are affected by our experiment during our liberation struggle. But we cannot force any country to bear more than it can and neither is it our right to impose our opinion on anybody.

There are countries in the forefront, facing the enemy, that are more aware of the realities of the situation than we. These should define the necessary formula and the appropriate time. We will give our absolute support to the choice. We are a part of this nation. We feel its pains and we will not hesitate to perform our duty. These are not merely words and the recent past testifies to this.

[Question] Algeria's traditional line has always been to support any stand adopted by the PLO. Will this line be amended following the PLO's tendency toward a solution where the revolutionary issue does not seem to be of prime importance? What are the impressions you got following your discussions with the Palestinian resistance leaders who visited you in Algeria? Is Algeria's support for the resistance movement continuing on the material and military levels?

[Answer] Our stand on the Palestinian issue is well-known. I do not like to review what we have done. The Palestinian people are represented by the PLO, which contains patriotic and revolutionary officials who believe in their just cause. I met with several resistance leaders and spoke with them in militant frankness. Naturally, they know more about the dimensions of the problem. However, as an Algerian struggler I say that national unity is the basic guarantee for victory. I say this from the reality of our Algerian experiment without trying to interfere in their affairs. In our revolution, we rejected tutelege and patronage. We like our brothers to have what we have always liked for ourselves.

Algeria's Role in Lebanon

[Question] When you received your new ambassador to Lebanon 3 days ago, did you give him major broadlines for a new strategy of dealing with the parties to the conflict in Lebanon or will Algeria's past role in Lebanon continue?

[Answer] Lebanon is a fraternal Arab country. As Arabs, we are all responsible for Lebanon's tragedy, perhaps some sons of Lebanon more than others. As far as we are concerned--and these are some of the instructions we gave our ambassador--we seek to bolster Lebanon's independence and safeguard its national unity and territorial integrity. We will not begrudge any effort to make Lebanon a glittering image for the Arab nation and not a place for contradictions in the Arab world.

I believe that the question which should be raised in Lebanon today is: Who is the real enemy and who is the natural ally?

[Question] Chadli Bendjedid's Algeria has not begun any Arab or international initiatives to date. Does this mean that putting the domestic house in order has first priority or are there initiatives to be announced at the right time?

[Answer] Despite the domestic burdens, we have never shirked our international duties as a nonalined and Islamic Arab country. For example, I would like to remind you of the proposal put forward by Algeria at the OPEC conference in Caracas regarding the establishment of a development bank within OPEC to aid Third World countries. Before that and within the same context, we called at the Havana conference for the establishment of a dialog of the south to formulate a unified strategy and coordinate stands on the north-south dialog.

The Nonalined World

[Question] After Tito, the glitter of the nonalined movement will depend upon Castro and his political ideology. Might this upset the philosophy and line of the movement? Do you believe that nonalinement is now in need of amendment that takes into consideration changes in the international arena? Furthermore, why did you choose to move far from the limelight and publicity in the recent Havana summit?

[Answer] Algeria belongs to the nonalined movement. It believes in the positive concept of this movement's role in the world which depends upon adherence to national independence and contribution to the achievement of world peace. Mere detente among the great powers is not sufficient to attain world peace.

The seeds of nonalinement were sown in Bandung, proceeding from the concept of positive neutrality. It then developed into a political premise and at the Algiers conference in 1973. It crystallized into a political-economic premise. This development confirms the vitality of the movement.

It is true that the chairman of the movement plays a role in its march. However, the movement's line should not depend upon individuals but upon convictions. It should basically depend upon each state's faith in the positive concept of nonalinement and each state's concern to uphold the movement's unity. It also depends upon the coordination of stands among the movement's members. The phase of the movement's dependence upon individuals has ended or is about to end.

The Algerian delegation in Havana performed its role to express our country's convictions. We did not do more than that. What was important for us was safeguarding the nonalined movement's unity, dynamism and march on the sound track that makes it a political tool to protect our countries against all pressures and a framework that enables us to concentrate our efforts on national development.

We believe in the movement's world role. We believe it is our task to protect this movement from all possible contradictions in view of the diversity of the regimes of the countries which belong to it. It is also our duty to seek to bring closer the various viewpoints on issues raised.

I believe that the power of the nonalined movement is necessary for world peace and to keep away the specter of war, whether cold or hot. It is also necessary for a genuine international balance in the interests of the nonalined states and nations as well as in the interests of the big powers themselves.

Religion and Heritage

[Question] All of your speeches include a religious strain and a concentration on religion, heritage and Islamic character. Are these feelings new for you and does the Islamic religion constitute the basis of your work and of your views on life?

[Answer] I would like to say that religion was the basic factor in the Algerian revolution. On one hand, religion was the fence that protected the aspects of the Algerian character during the period of occupation. It was also the basis of national unity, particularly during the war of liberation.

And on the other hand, religion is a positive factor in building a society. This is because, to us, Islam is the religion of real social justice.

I personally was brought up in a religious family. This greatly affected my youth. Later, this was strengthened during the war of liberation by various events in which we felt the divine power that protected our revolution. This was our basic weapon in achieving victory.

[Question] You advocate criticism and self-criticism. To what extent do you accept this?

[Answer] There is no limit to criticism and self-criticism. What is important is that this be practiced under law and far removed from anarchy.

We have managed to build democratic institutions on the party and state levels. These are a suitable framework for the kind of constructive criticism that will take both positive and negative aspects into account at the same time. This constructive criticism is aimed at avoiding anything that will harm our socialist choice and our Arab Islamic values. This is in addition to the role played by the information media.

[Question] There is an Algerian opposition and Algerian opponents both inside and outside Algeria. Do you believe that it has become essential that the nation be united and that some outstanding political problems and situations be settled?

[Answer] There is no opposition internally. There are citizens who might condemn certain negative aspects from which we are suffering, which resulted from our quick development. But this phenomenon cannot be termed opposition.

Further, there is no opposition abroad. There are persons who represent only themselves. Some of these believe that they must be guardians of the Algerian revolution because they were strugglers some time ago. The sole leader of Algeria is the Algerian people and the only leader of the revolution is the National Liberation Front.

I have said that it is the people's will that makes the political choice for the country. This choice cannot be made by one person or a single group of persons. The doors are open by which anyone may accept this choice, which was determined in a general popular plebescite.

There are elements that hurt the Algerian revolution and these have no room in our ranks. It is the right of every Algerian to hold a different opinion. Democracy, however, dictates that everyone should be subject to the majority's opinion. Even more important is that political differences not be an excuse for collusion with the enemy or for acts against the revolution and the homeland.

Following this 2-hour interview with President Chadli Bendjedid, I asked that he grant me another 5 minutes, in order to answer my question about what is preventing an Algerian deterrent force from replacing the Syrian deterrent force in Lebanon.

He, however, only smiled and I could not translate the meaning of this smile, which lasted less than a second.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA STATES POSITION ON EVE OF ARAB LEAGUE SESSION

LD251444 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta left Morocco this morning for Tunisia to attend the Arab League Council emergency meeting. He made a statement in which he explained Morocco's position and the role he will be playing during the meeting.

He said: [begin recording] In the face of the events in Tunisia, Morocco will side with Tunisia in defense of the principles that have been embodied in the Arab League Charter, which condemn interference in the internal affairs of other countries and provide for the preservation of good-neighborly relations between countries and the ending of any tension between the Arab countries. This is what we will affirm and what Morocco will affirm. This is because Morocco believes that these principles were not put into the charter for nothing, but to be respected and followed. As regards this region, Morocco was one of the first countries to call for its demiliterization in respect of all types of arms, so that reassurance and cooperation and development can take place for the good of all the peoples of the region.

This is the position which we will adopt at Tunisia and at the emergency meeting. We will also hold consultations with the other brothers, the Arab foreign ministers. As we have already said, our position will be clear, as it has been since the start of these developments. Morocco expressed its position in practical terms when King Hassan II rushed to provide all sorts of aid to Tunisia.

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

JN261021 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 26 (SUNA)--"Sudan rejects any step that advocates partial solutions or endangers the terminal Arab cause or does harm to the rights of the Palestinian people," a statement issued yesterday by the Foreign Ministry here on the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel said.

On this day the 26th of Feb 1980, the Sudan is heavily grieved to see Egypt, which is the heart of the Arab nation, normalize relations and exchange ambassadors with Israel while Israel is still occupying dear Arab territory and the holy Al-Quds [Jerusalem] and while the Palestinian people are still dispersed and deprived of their rights, the statement went on saying. The Sudan has always abided with what the whole Arab nation had agreed upon namely that the Palestinian cause was the core of Arab-Israeli conflict. No peace can ever be accomplished except through a just and comprehensive settlement founded on the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territory including Al-Quds and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the establishing of their own independent state under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization [PLO] which is the sole rightful representative of the Palestinian people, the statement added.

Sudan will be observing the situation and the consequences that will show up in the future and then it will assume what his convictions and national commitments dictate. Sudan reaffirms his determination to continue struggling beside his Arab brothers against Zionist enemy within a unified Arab strategy during the important approaching stage, the statement concluded.

AMBASSADOR MURTADA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT

TA261023 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada presented his credentials to President Navon an hour ago, and Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Eliyahu Ben-Elisar is now due to submit his credentials to President as-Sadat.

Before presenting his credentials, Ambassador Murtada said he wanted to mention the ancient ties between the two nations. Their needs became different, but now they have again become close. The ambassador stressed that he was in Israel as a result of President as-Sadat's initiative in coming to Jerusalem, of the response of the Government of Israel and of the aid of the United States. This cooperation led to the signing of the people agreements and to the return of stability, security and the legitimate rights of all sides with, at their head, the Palestinian people, who are entitled to lives of freedom and security. Sa'd Murtada emphasized that Egypt's position is based on its Arab and Muslim commitments and on the UN resolution. It would honor its commitments under the peace agreement to the letter and in the spirit. I am aware of the delicacy of the mission placed upon me, Ambassador Murtada said, and I will work to overcome all the difficulties so that there will be complete understanding between Israel and Egypt.

President Navon replied by saying the ceremony of presenting credentials was an important milestone on the road to peace which both nations had decided to follow. The peace agreement was not intended to be a separate one, but an opening for other agreements. Today, it appears that it is difficult to achieve this, the president of the state commented, but matters which appeared to be impossible yesterday have been achieved today. You will meet an ancient nation here, the president said, and I hope that we will work together to strengthen what our nations have in common and to respect what is different. President Navon also expressed the hope that the Arabs who live in Israel will be able to contribute greatly toward the strengthening of the link of peace between Israel and Egypt. The president of the state concluded his remarks with the sentence: Today, the chapter of enmity has been closed and that of fruitfulness and peace has been opened.

EGYPTIAN CONSULAR SECTION IN TEL AVIV TO OPEN 27 FEB

TA251926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The consular section of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv will not open tomorrow. The first secretary told our correspondent Dan Eshel that the room to be used by the section in the lobby of the Hilton Hotel is not ready. However, even if the room had been ready the embassy staff will be in Jerusalem tomorrow when Ambassador Murtada presents his credentials. Therefore, the Consular Department will open the day after tomorrow.

The hotel management told our correspondent that the room has been ready since noon, but they were unable to make contact with members of the embassy.

WEIZMAN, 'ALI ENDORSE MILITARY AGREEMENTS

TA260700 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman, military correspondent]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--Visiting Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday approved most of the outstanding military agreements between Israel and Egypt.

At a one-hour meeting at the Israel Defense Ministry, where Hasan 'Ali was received with full military honors, the two finalized modus operandi for the Sinai field mission, an official visit to Israel by the Egyptian chief of staff in late March, a visit to Alexandria by the Israel Navy in April, and problems regarding Ra's Muhammad and Santa Katerina.

AS-SADAT FAILS TO BRING HUSAYN INTO TALKS

TA260646 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi, Mideast affairs editor]

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat recently attempted to persuade King Husayn to join the current delicate phase of the negotiations for West Bank and Gaza Strip autonomy, but without success, well-placed officials disclosed yesterday. The officials said that the Jordanian monarch remained adamant in his refusal, contrary to persistent reports claiming that he would do so. The officials said Husayn stressed he was firmly opposed to the Camp David framework which governs the current autonomy negotiations.

Husayn, nevertheless, reportedly agreed to drop his plan for pan-Arab action to combat the autonomy talks, pending the conclusion of the deliberations by the May deadline. The Egyptian officials said they believe Husayn is waiting to see whether the Israel-Egyptian talks will result in a platform acceptable to the leaders from the West Bank and Gaza.

According to officials here, Husayn's decision to suspend his active opposition to the autonomy negotiations had been welcomed in Washington, which recently made Jordan eligible for $100 million in military aid "due to Husayn's action in good faith to promote a Middle East peace settlement." Sources close to As-Sadat concede that Cairo sees little chance for positive cooperation by Husayn unless he is steered into facing situations creating faits accomplis.

The sources did not elaborate. But at a briefing attended jointly by the Jerusalem POST and a Saudi Arabian editor visiting Egypt, the sources left no doubt that As-Sadat was currently considering four main options which may bring about Jordan's reconsideration of of its current position regarding the West Bank:

--To pursue a successful conclusion of the autonomy negotiations provided the outcome granted full-fledged self-rule for the inhabitants of the territories as well as of East Jerusalem. This 5-year interim arrangement calls for coordination with Husayn toward a possible confederation between the territories and Jordan.

--Implementation of the autonomy scheme first in Gaza under Egypt's aegis while calling on Jordan "to shoulder its own responsibilities" in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

--Placing the territories under a transitional mandatory rule shared by Israel, Egypt and the United States should the current autonomy negotiations fail to meet the May deadline.

--Join other Arab states in seeking UN motions on the territories, a move which officials here warn may jeopardize the newly established peace relations beteen Egypt and Israel.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL RADIO REPORTS KESHTMAND THANKS TO USSR FOR AID

LD251936 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Afghan-Soviet cooperation is expanding. Since the victory of 27 December the friendly government of the USSR has given hundreds of thousands of tons of essential items as grant-in-aid to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and this disinterested aid is continuing.

According to a BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY report from Moscow, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, vice president of the Revolutionary Council, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, who recently went to the Soviet Union for medical treatment, has thanked Soviet Government officials and expressed gratitude for this fraternal and disinterested aid.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY adds that the above-mentioned items are being taken to the people in all parts of the country by the organizations and government officials.

Editorial Criticizes 'Lies'

LD252034 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] The criminal imperialism led by world-devouring American imperialism, its heretical Chinese allies, the reactionary rulers of Pakistan and all the reactionaries of the world and the region have gathered together in the same unholy rank against revolutionary Afghanistan and its legal government.

As we have repeatedly said, they have waged an undeclared war against our homeland and revolution through various ways and means. They who met with a disgraceful defeat in their recent notorious conspiracy against our homeland and revolution now resort in the old familiar manner of British colonialism to lies, rumormongering, slander and accusation.

An example of such blatant lies is the nes which has recently been carried by REUTER and AFP, the BBC, the Voice of America and Deutsche Welle and their local (?agent), Radio Peshawar, about the wounding and even killing of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, vice president of the Revolutionary Council, deputy prime minister and minister of planning. It has even been claimed that his body was transported to Kabul last Thursday.

Another blatant lie that has recently been spread by these same sources is this: That Mahmud Barialay, member of the party Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council, was also wounded and later died. The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has contacted high-ranking party and government authorities and it denies these parasitic lies and foul rumors, adding that Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand recently went to the USSR for treatment on a stomach ulcer, which he gained while in the prison of Hafizolla Amin--the recognized CIA agent--from the pressure and torture of the Amin murderers. He is receiving treatment in the USSR and will soon return home.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY adds that Mahmud Barialay, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, is in good health and today left at the head of a party delegation for Addis Ababa to participate at the WPC meetings, where he is expected to discuss matters of interest with the responsible government authorities of the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia.

UNITY URGED AGAINST ENEMIES OF COUNTRY

LD252136 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] The fighting unity of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] guarantees the success of our people. Nearly 125 years ago, before the founding of the PDPA, men, women, children and the artisans of the city of Kabul, (?millions of peasants) and the patriots of all parts of Afghanistan, fought furiously against British colonialism. With the successful uprising of the people, in the place of [word indistinct] cut off the bloodstained claws of the British from our country.

Fifteen years ago, once again our fighting sons, the sons from cities and villages, the well-informed sons of the toiling strata of Afghanistan [words indistinct] and the national promoters of the proud anticolonial struggles, and the freedom-seeking people of Afghanistan established the PDPA, the proud party of the working class and all the country's toilers. This ended the plagued feudal system, the present imperialism and started the new era.

In the desperate struggle and undeclared present war, American imperialism, Beijing chauvinists and the reactionaries of Pakistan and the region have attacked in the city of Kabul and other parts of the country our national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The clamor of U.S. imperialism and all the reactionary circles of the old world against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, [DRA] against the fighting unity of the PDPA, and its leadership, against the rescuing soldiers of the USSR, who have come at the request of the party, the Revolutionary Council, and the DRA to aid our people, are all phenomena of the defeated policy of interference' by U.S. imperialism and Chinese chauvinism in the heart of Asia. Long live the united [word indistinct] PDPA, the real defender of the working class and all the toilers of revolutionary Afghanistan.

Virtuous scholars, patriotic clergy, the aggressive and [word indistinct] of the United States, Britain and the mercenary spies of China, Pakistan and Israel and the other enemies of the holy religion of Islam, have attempted to kill children, women, youth, innocent old folks and, by destroying private dwellings, burning libraries and transportation facilities, and by creating worries, have interrupted revolutionary public order and the peaceful life of the religious Kabul citizens. These are contrary to the laws of the Shar'ia of the prophet and religion, against the aspirations of human rights and national expenditure [word indistinct] of the revolutionary armed forces, the vigilant security police of the country, under the leadership of the PDPA, by relying on the mercy of (?God) and the total support of the citizens of Kabul, the sworn resistance of the people will defend the DRA (?bravely).

The DRA Government is respectfully asking all the respected imams of the mosques, all scholars and clergy and (?those) interested in national freedom, prosperity and the peace of [word indistinct] and the progress of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to take part side by side with the revolutionary armed police forces, security authorities, the party and state in this national and social war and bring before the people of Afghanistan the substance of the (?unclean), inhuman and anti-Islamic [word indistinct] actions of the spies of America, Britain, China, Pakistan and Israel--the obvious enemies of the religion of Islam.

Despite the clear and complete reasoning which is brought to the attention of countrymen, radio, television and newspapers, there are some hired elements who will make themselves obvious and engage in spreading false propaganda against the human-loving security organs. Against such mercenaries and foreign spies, even if they disguise themselves in the clean garment of Islam the DRA Government will take a revolutionary and decisive stand in accordance with Islamic law, the laws of the nation and in accordance with human rights and military government regulations.

HIGH-RANKING DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ADDIS ABABA

GF251718 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 25 Feb 80 GF

[Text] A high-ranking party delegation headed by Mahmud Barialay, member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and at the same time responsible for international relations of the department of the Central Committee of the party, left for Addis Ababa today for participating in the session of the World Peace Conference. It was expected the delegation will also hold talks with responsible state authorities of socialist republic of Ethiopia on matters of mutual interest.

LEADERS RECEIVE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION 24 FEB

GF251800 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 80 GF

[Text] Habib Mangal, member of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Revolutionary Council member and official in charge of social organizations in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, yesterday received Zayd 'Alawi, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Central Committee Secretariat, and Dawud Talhami, member of the Palestinian resistance national council [title as heard] and official in charge of the magazine AL-HURRIYAH, organ of the DFLP.

Dr Mangal explained the tasks of the victorious Sawr Revolution and the conspiracies of Hafizollah Amin and his gang, who were cooperating with world imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, Chinese chauvinism and Zionist Israel. He explained the events of 27 December 1979, the abortion of the schemes of our revolution's enemies, and the flagrant interference by Pakistani, U.S. and Chinese spies in collaboration with reactionary Arab governments seeking to upset the normal lives of our noble masses. He also described the sincere cooperation of the limited Soviet military contingent.

Revolutionary Council member Sorayya, on behalf of the women's democratic organization of Afghanistan, met with the Palestinian delegation. The two sides discussed the establishment of relations of cooperation and the exchange of materials and information.

BBC REPORT CALLS NATIONAL CAPITAL 'GHOST TOWN'

TA251621 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Feb 80 TA

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Travelers arriving in India from the Afghanistan capital, Kabul, suggest that the violence in the city has died down, although Soviet tanks remain on the streets and all shops are still closed. A Japanese journalist described Kabul as a ghost town when he spoke to our Delhi correspondent Mark Tulley:

[Begin Tulley recording] A Japanese journalist said there was a large number of Soviet tanks and armored personnel carriers on the streets, but Afghan soldiers and civilian members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of President Babrak Karmal were also patrolling. They were armed with Russian Kalashnikov submachineguns. An Afghan trader confirmed that the shopkeepers were on strike for the 5th day. He was very reluctant to speak, and eventually he said: Our people don't object to this government, but they do mind the presence of our neighbors from the north.

An American television team with valid visas, who had flown in from Frankfurt, were refused entry, as was a French journalist. A member of the American team said he saw a heavy concentration of Russian troops and aircraft at the airport. He counted 8 T-54 tanks, 5 helicopter gunships and a large number of military trucks and armored personnel carriers.

Mark Tulley, BBC, Delhi. [end recording]

KABUL RETURNING TO NORMAL; RADIO, NEW TIMES CITED

BK251629 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] Kabul, 25 Feb (AFP)--Life was slowly returning to normal here today, with about 20 per cent of shops in the business district reopening and more people resuming work in government offices.

Kabul Radio this morning announced that over 500 (?persons had been) arrested during the last two (?days in) the wake of the capture of 16 alleged Pakistani saboteurs and an alleged CIA agent on Friday when major gunbattles erupted. Those detained were described as "trained agents of the U.S., Britain, China and Pakistan."

Western diplomats who toured parts of the city said an atmosphere of tension prevailed everywhere. Soviet tanks and armoured personnel carriers continued to patrol the streets while Afghan soldiers with machine guns kept watch at strategic road junctions.

For the first time since the anti-Russian riots broke out Russian troops did not send up night flares over the airport and Soviet-occupied apartment buildings near the Micro-Rayon Bridge in the heart of the city. Afghan troops have removed stone barricades set up in many areas by demonstrations on Friday. Troops were also clearing up the rubble of a six-storey building blown up on Friday near the Micro-Rayon Bridge.

One Afghan source said the anti-Russian demonstrators were preparing to launch their second round on March 10. He gave no explanation why March 10 was chosen.

The English daily, Kabul NEW TIMES, reappeared on the streets today for the first time since Thursday. It frontpaged news of the arrest of the alleged 16 Pakistani "terrorists" and a "CIA-agent called Robert Lee" along with pictures of the captured "U.S., U.K., Pakistan and Chinese arms." The arms included guns, grenade launchers and Molotov cocktails. Photographs of the Pakistanis were also published, but not that of Mr. Lee.

In an editorial entitled "CIA Provocations Frustrated," the paper said the sabotage and terrorist operations were "guided by men like Robert Lee, under the auspices of the United States Embassy in Islamabad." The terrorists were sent to Afghanistan "to carry out sabotage and panic among the people" and they would be "punished according to the rules of martial law," it added.

Meanwhile more details of the incident near the Russian-built silo in the residential district of Afshar on Friday now available indicated that the demonstrators had suffered heavy casualties during firing by Afghan soldiers aided by Soviet artillery and tanks.

About 300 demonstrators led by a few "mojahedin" (freedom-fighters) had seized the silo from where the Afghan troops dislodged them after a three-hour battle, the reports said. At one time as many as 12 Russian tanks were (?seen) in the area and there were occasional bursts of artillery fire.

REBELS TAKING REPRISALS AGAINST INDIAN TRADERS

BK251633 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Kabul, 25 Feb (AFP)--Moslem guerrillas have begun taking reprisals against Indian traders in retaliation for what they (?consider) Indian sympathy for the Soviet action in Afghanistan.

Yesterday, Soviet-supplied Afghan Army tanks in large numbers were spotted moving out of here in the direction of Ghazni and Qandahar in the south amid reports of large-scale anti-Soviet demonstrations there.

The first reports of anti-Indian actions reached here through an Indian merchant Santokh Singh, who fled to Kabul from Qandahar on Friday. Mr. Singh said his shop had been looted by "mojahedin" (freedom-fighters). Anti-Russian rebels set fire to two other Indian-owned shops in the area after telling the owners that the Indian Government was "condoning the (?Soviet) military presence in Afghanistan."

Reports from Jalalabad, on the road to Peshawar, in Pakistan, said the town observed a total strike on Friday and Saturday to protest against the presence of Russian troops in the country.

CTK CITES BAKHTAR ON U.S. 'INTERFERENCE' IN COUNTRY

LD252206 Prague CTK in English 2011 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul--The interference of U.S. imperialism in Afghan internal affairs, through home and foreign reaction, is in sharp contradiction with the principal norms of international law, the Afghan BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY commented on Monday.

The statement of U.S. President James Carter that the CIA will launch actions against Afghanistan's sovereignty if the situation in the country does not change by February 20, is a convincing proof of the U.S. intentions to continue the undeclared war against Afghanistan, the commentary said.

The events which took place in Kabul last week were closely linked with the date Carter mentioned in his statement, the agency said. According to the U.S. press, President Carter has ordered, without the consent of the Congress, supplies of arms to terrorists who are to participate in further military interference in the country's internal affairs, the agency said.

AFP REPORTS ON RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN KABUL

OW252255 Hong Kong AFP in English 2223 GMT 25 Feb 80 OW

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb. 25 (AFP)--Afghan Moslem rebel leaders say that Friday's demonstrations in Kabul were "well organized" by activists from several opposition groups acting jointly in mobilizing tens of thousands of people simultaneously at three different points in the capital.

The rebel leaders, members of the Jam'iat-e Eslami Afghanistan group, interviewed in this city on the Afghan border, said they had pieced this picture together from the reports of travellers who were in Kabul at the time. They had no more direct information, due to difficult communications and the non-centralized nature of clandestine rebel activities. According to these sources, the demonstrators assembled in Zar Negar park in the center of town, at a point in the northwest of town and one in the southwest at 11 o'clock in the morning, an hour ahead of the Friday prayer period between noon and 1 p.m.

The plan was to have the worshippers join the demonstration as they came out of the mosques. Many green flags--the color of Islam--were in evidence among the crowd, as well as banners bearing religious slogans such as "Muhammad is God's Messenger," outright political ones hostile to the Babrak Karmal regime or the Soviets, and religious slogans with a political message such as "There is no other God than Allah," a reference to Marxism not being Afghanistan's religion.

The bulk of demonstrators in the center of town attempted to march on Radio Kabul, suffering the greatest number of casualties when they were stopped by a barrage of tanks and the Afghan military opened fire, with the reported support of Soviet-built Mi helicopters and MIG jets. Then the crowd was beaten back and dispersed after 3 hours of demonstrations, the rebel leaders said. Another group apparently sought to advance towards the Soviet Embassy but was repulsed by a heavy guard of Afghan and Soviet forces.

The rebel leaders said that their own men, who were armed, were not alone in organizing the demonstration--a joint operation between guerillas, student and intellectual opposition and perhaps even communist supporters of the late President Hafizollah Amin.

FOOD SHORTAGES EXPERIENCED AS GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES

BK260617 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Feb (AFP)--Food shortages were starting to be felt in Kabul today as a general strike entered its sixth day, with most shops remaining closed to protest against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, telephone reports from the Afghan capital said.

Western sources said sporadic gunfire was continuing this morning amid indications that the Soviets were pouring in fresh troops and armor following the outbreak of disturbances on Friday. Plain-clothes Afghan security forces were said to be patrolling snow-blanketed streets, checking pedestrians' identity and entering homes to search for arms.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said meat and fowl were unavailable, while bread was difficult to find because the wood used to fire brick ovens [words indistinct] being supplied. It was also becoming increasingly difficult to find flour, sugar, rice and milk, though food stalls were among some of the few shops that have reopened in response to pressure from the Soviet-backed government of President Babrak Karmal.

The sources said rooftop chanting of Islamic slogans had continued last night after the 2000 curfew imposed with martial law on Friday, when the first big anti-Soviet disturbances erupted.

But the chanting, in solidarity with the 22-month-old guerrilla war against three successive Marxist administrations in Kabul, was said to have been less intense than on previous nights.

Foreigners were being kept off the streets unless traveling by car, the sources said. They said the handful of Western journalists in the city were confined to the Inter-continental Hotel, under a heavy Afghan guard.

Tanks were reported stationed at every key intersection, some of them carrying Afghan troops loyal to the Karmal regime in addition to Soviet troops.

SOURCES SAY MOPPING UP, MASS ARRESTS UNDERWAY IN KABUL

London REUTER in English 0750 GMT 26 Feb 80 WA

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan, Feb 26, REUTER--Soviet and Afghan troops began mopping up operations yesterday after five days of rioting in the Afghan capital of Kabul and mass arrests were believed to be taking place, authoritative sources here said today.

Despite Kabul Radio's claims that peace returned to the troubled city yesterday, the sources said that sporadic clashes between troops and anti-Soviet demonstrators had occured during the day. Occasional shooting could still be heard, said the sources, who have access to reliable news from Kabul. "It appears the government is mopping up," one source said.

"The situation yesterday was not entirely normal as reported by Kabul Radio. There were sporadic acts of violence but no large scale fighting."

"It seems that large scale arrests were going on," he added. There was no indication how many people may have been detained.

Kabul Radio announced last night that "traitorous activities" had been ended in the city and that shops and bazaars had reopened after a general strike which began last Thursday. But the sources in Islamabad said that only a few shops, mostly those selling perishable goods such as fruit and vegetables, had opened yesterday. Most of the bazaars stayed shut, they said.

Jam'iat-E Eslami, one of six Islamic guerrilla organizations with offices in Peshawar close to Pakistan's northwestern frontier with Afghanistan, said today that the general strike was holding in Kabul. "The radio is speaking nonsense," a spokesman said. He also said a similar strike had virtually closed down the city of Jalalabad, 50 miles (80 km) from the Pakistan border.

The guerrillas have appealed to the Afghan people to maintain their passive resistance of work stoppages until the Soviet Union pulls out its forces.

The Jam'iat-E Eslami group said heavy firing continued throughout Sunday night in Jalalabad. "It was like a fireworks display," the spokesman said, quoting travellers who arrived in Peshawar from Jalalabad yesterday. He said guerrillas had burned out a government truck carrying supplies of wheat on the main road from Jalalabad to Kabul. Other vehicles had piled up and blocked the highway, he added.

The guerrillas in Peshawar reported constant fighting between Mojahedin--nationalist insurgents--and Soviet and Afghan troops in Paktia and Nangarhar Provinces adjoining the Pakistan border but said they had no details.

INDIA

YUGOSLAVIA'S VRHOVEC CONTINUES VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

Condemns Soviets in Afghanistan

BK251351 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 25 Feb (AFP)--Visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Josip Vrhovec today strongly condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and called for withdrawal of its troops.

He spoke of the possibility of a nonaligned meeting being convened specially to discuss the Afghan developments. Mr. Vrhovec told a press conference that the projected conference was among various measures (?discussed) with his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao earlier in the day towards defusing the situation. The Yugoslav foreign minister described his talks "very friendly" and said that there was an "identity of approach" on various international problems discussed at the talks, including the Mideast situation, southern Africa and detente.

He said that the proposal for convening a conference of the nonaligned countries was at an initial stage and a final decision would be taken after further consultations with other member countries of the movement.

He virtually rejected the E.E.C. proposal on keeping Afghanistan neutral, saying that the "best way is to search for genuine nonalignment. There are more (?concrete) ideas than that...", he said without specifying them. Mr Vrhovec said Yugoslavia was against foreign intervention in other countries' affairs, noting that this tendency (?was) on the increase today. He described this as a "very dangerous" trend, which should be stopped. Answering a question on the demand for Soviet troops withdrawing from Afghanistan, he said such a pull-out should be the [words indistinct] of defusing the situation.

The nonaligned policy, Mr Vrhovec emphasised, (is) that all countries should have the freedom to settle their own problems internally without outside interference. Mr Vrhovec said they were trying to reactivate the nonalined movement on the issue of Afghanistan. Asked about the division among the nonalined on the Soviet action, he admitted it would always be difficult to achieve complete agreement on [word indistinct].

About the conditions set by the Soviet Union for troops withdrawal he merely said "we are very carefully examining the latest speech of (Soviet President) Leonid Brezhnev" in the matter.

Sources in the Indian Foreign Office earlier said that both sides at the talks, spread over two [words indistinct], agreed that efforts should continue to defuse the situation created by the Afghan developments in the region. The two sides were also of the view that the (?prime) objective should be (?toward) the independence and nonalignment of Afghanistan. Vrhovec, who arrived here last night for a three-day visit, is expected to call on Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi tomorrow.

Government Spokesman on Talks

BK251646 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1518 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

["Official Spokesman Statement on 25 February"]

[Excerpt] The visiting Yugoslav foreign minister had two rounds of official talks on 25 February. The two foreign ministers had a comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views on the international situation and current deterioration in terms of regional developments in India's neighborhood, especially in Afghanistan.

They also assessed and discussed the role the nonaligned countries could play in dealing with the situation. Both agreed on the need to continue endeavours for defusing the situation and for finding a long-term solution which would ensure peace and stability in the area. There was also agreement that the ultimate objective should be to safeguard the independence and nonalignment of Afghanistan and not just neutrality in the technical sense of the term. This would naturally involve the willingness on the part of all concerned to act with circumspection and restraint. The need for avoiding interference in the internal affairs of countries and great power concentration was agreed on. Both sides affirmed that the policies of nonalignment and the five principles of coexistence provided a sound basis for the conduct of international relations in these critical times. Some suggestions regarding joint initiatives by the nonaligned group were discussed. It was agreed that possibilities about these should be explored and consultations should continue among nonaligned countries.

While analysing the international situation in overall terms, both foreign ministers agreed that detente was in great danger and that the nonaligned countries should continue to orient their energies to revive detente with a view to restoring a harmonious atmosphere for international relations.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on developments in Africa with special reference to developments in Zimbabwe and Rhodesia. There was a consensus of view that adverse developments in Zimbabwe would pose a great threat to peace and stability in southern Africa and it might also have a negative ramification in other parts of the world.

Both foreign ministers discussed the situation in West Asia as well as the contemporary economic situation. They agreed that a common approach evolved relating to these subjects by the nonaligned movement and Group of 77 should be followed with determination.

Addressing press conference immediately after the talks, Yugoslav foreign minister said "we concluded that the tendency to use force and the tendency to foreign interference in the internal affairs of countries are growing," reports PTI. This is a new trend (?in) the superpower or block rivalry. Instead of solving world problems they are trying to expand their sphere of influence. This is very dangerous for the peace and stability in the world and to the vital interests of the nonaligned countries, the visiting foreign minister said.

Roa's Toast at Dinner

BK260935 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[ISI quotation marks as received]

[Excerpt] Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao held a dinner in honour of Josip Vrhovec, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in New Delhi on February 25. Proposing a toast, Rao said: "Your Excellency, friends: It is a great pleasure for me to welcome your excellency to India. Your visit comes soon after a new government has assumed office in our country and affords us a welcome opportunity to exchange views on subjects of mutual interest, in keeping with the strong tradition of India-Yugoslav friendship and cooperation.

This close friendship between India and Yugoslavia has derived strength from our common desire to work for world peace, Both of us realise that for socioeconomic development of our countries and our people a peaceful environment is essential. That is why India and Yugoslavia have always worked together in international forums to this end.

India attaches importance to the strengthening of her friendly ties with Yugoslavia. We recognise the significance of high level exchanges between our two countries and we are convinced that your excellency's visit would further promote India-Yugoslav relations.

The warm personal friendship between President Tito and the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, was of immense significance in the development of India-Yugoslav cooperation. Together the two leaders laid the foundation of the nonaligned movement. It is therefore but natural that we in India should receive with concern and distress the news of President Tito's ill health. We pray for his speedy recovery.

Under the guidance of President Tito the friendly people of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have enjoyed the fruits of one of the most innovative experiments of our times. Whether in the system of workers self-management socialism or in the realm of foreign policy your great leader has made a deep imprint. We admire the courage and determination of your people. We are confident that Yugoslavia will continue to grow in strength.

Ever since our independence we in India have followed a foreign policy guided by an unwavering adherence to the principles of nonalignment which has enabled us to exercise our independence of judgment and freedom of action in a manner suited to our national genius. International developments of the last 3 decades have reaffirmed the validity of nonalignment and its relevance to countries, irrespective of their socioeconomic systems. India and Yugoslavia can be justifiably proud that a movement which began with a small membership of 25 now spans all the continents of the world. There is a reason for this. The nonaligned countries share the conviction that socioeconomic development in their countries can be best assured by pursuit of a policy which enables them to be free of bloc rivalry or big power confrontation.

Unfortunately, however, in recent years nonaligned countries have been frequently drawn into the vortex of such confrontations. This has threatened the very ideals of our movement, above all the five principles of peaceful coexistence which serve as the sheet anchor of nonalignment.

In recent months new tensions have developed in our region affecting countries who are all members of the nonaligned movement. It has been India's effort to work towards defusing the situation. We have embarked upon a process of consultations and we are happy to have the opportunity of exchanging views with you. In all our discussions we have counselled utmost restraint from all quarters.

We believe that interstate relations must be governed by certain well recognised principles. Whatever problems exist between any two countries must be resolved bilaterally and through peaceful means. We are opposed to outside interference in the affairs of any countries must be allowed to develop their socioeconomic systems in a manner suited to their own genius.

Excellency, I am confident that our discussions during your visit will strengthen and deepen our mutual understanding and contribute to consolidating India-Yugoslav relations.

Friends, may I now invite you to join me in raising a toast to our distinguished visitor, H.E. Josip Vrhovec, federal secretary of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to the distinguished members of his delegation, as also the the growing strength of India-Yugoslav friendship and cooperation."

Delhi Reports Speeches

BK260303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narsimha Rao has reaffirmed India's oppostion to outside interference in the affairs of any country. Speaking at a banquet given in honor of the Yugoslav foreign minister, Josip Vrhovec, in New Delhi last night, he said that in recent months tensions have developed in our region affecting countries who are all members of the nonalined movement. He said India has begun the process of consultations to defuse tension in the region.

The external affairs minister said it is our firm conviction that countries must be allowed to develop their socio-economic system in a manner suited to their own genius. Whatever problems exist between any two countries must be resolved through bilateral and peaceful means.

In his reply, the Yugoslav foreign minister, Josip Vrhovec, expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Asia. He said his government is convinced that adherence to the United Nations Charter and to the principles of nonalinement is the only possible way to find a solution to the prevailing crisis. He said the nonalined movement can contribute significantly to achieve detente in the world.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S ACCOUNT OF INDO-BHUTAN TALKS

BK251646 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1518 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[25 February official spokesman's statement--read by announcer]

[Excerpt] During the second day of Indo-Bhutan talks held on 25 February various aspects of bilateral relations including economic relations, establishment of an air link with Bhutan, and matters of trade and commerce were discussed. Both sides agreed to strengthen their friendship further and expand bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. The details of bilateral cooperation will be discussed and finalised through official and diplomatic channels.

In response to queries, the official spokesman said on 25 February that the Government of India welcomes his majesty's statement that there is no need for discussing the provisions of the Indo-Bhutan treaty of 1949. Also that the Government of India agrees with his majesty that there are no issues which cannot be discussed between the two countries. As far as Indo-Bhutan relations are carried on in this traditional framework and in a spirit of friendship, trust and cooperation, Indo-Bhutan relations are bound to expand and grow as evidenced in recent talks.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BEGINS VISIT

BK260758 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mr Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 5-day visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr Ben Yahia told newsmen that the purpose of his visit is to further develop the existing friendship between the two countries. This is necessary because the nonalined countries must play a positive role in the international relations and matters related to the Third World. He expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries will increase in different spheres.

Welcoming the Algerian foreign minister, Mr Narasimha Rao said the talks will cover many fields of mutual interest and urgent issues of the nonalined world and peace in the region. During his stay in the capital, Mr Ben Yahia will have two rounds of talks with the external affairs minister. He will also meet the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. An agreement on technical and scientific cooperation and a cultural exchange program are expected to be signed between the two countries.

PAKISTAN

FRANCE'S STIRN ON NEED FOR DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON USSR

BK251734 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[Text] French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn has said it is essential that Soviet forces should withdraw from Afghanistan.

Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport after his arrival from Lahore this evening, he said to achieve this purpose diplomatic pressure must be exerted on the Soviet Union. He said the resolutions of the 104 countries at the United Nations and by the Islamabad conference of the Islamic foreign ministers will certainly carry weight on the Soviet Union.

Replying to a question about the reprocessing plant, Olivier Stirn said the matter is still under consideration and no one should think that there was any "no" from France. However he will not be discussing this during his present visit because he had come for a different purpose.

Further Stirn Comments

BK251704 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 79 BK

[Text] French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn, who arrived in Pakistan today on a 3-day visit, has said he will exchange views with Pakistani leaders on various issues including the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

He stated this to newsmen at Karachi and Lahore airports while enroute to Islamabad. He said France attaches considerable importance to the role of Pakistan in this part of the world. France, he added, is keenly interested in the Afghan refugee problem on humanitarian grounds, and he would like to see what France could do to assist Pakistan in this connection. He stated that France is trying to insure appropriate conditions for a return to a normal situation that would remove any apprehensions, and one such condition must be the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

On Indo-Pakistani relations, he said France considers normalization of relations between Pakistan and India essential to peace and stability in the region. He said during his visit he will also discuss measures to further strengthen close relations between the two countries.

Stirn has now arrived in Islamabad.